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No. 1426.

BAHAMAS

REPORT FOR 1928.

*(For Report for 1926 see No. 1380 (Price 9d.) and for Report for 1927
see No. 1378 (Price 9d.))*



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BAHAMAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PARAGRAPH
I. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY	1-16
II. GENERAL	17-23
III. FINANCE	24-28
IV. PRODUCTION	29-36
V. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	37-44
VI. COMMUNICATIONS	45-52
VII. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS... ..	53-55
VIII. PUBLIC WORKS	56-59
IX. PUBLIC HEALTH	60
X. EDUCATION	61-64
XI. LANDS	65-67
XII. LABOUR	68-69
XIII. MISCELLANEOUS	70-74

SKETCH MAP

I.—HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. The Colony of the Bahamas consists of an archipelago of coral islands, "cays," and rocks, lying to the east of Florida and the north of Cuba. They lie along two great coral banks of unequal size called the Little Bahama Bank and the Great Bahama Bank.

2. The Little Bahama Bank, which is the more northerly of the two, begins at the Matanilla Reef opposite the east coast of Florida and distant about 70 miles from Palm Beach, one of the principal watering places of that State. This Bank contains only two large islands, Grand Bahama and Abaco, but there is a large number of small cays fringing the northern shores of these two islands.

5. To the south of the Little Bahama Bank and separated from it by the North-West and North-East Providence Channels is the Great Bahama Bank, on which most of the islands of the Bahamas lie. To the westward is a line of cays, of which the principal is Bimini, which extends along the eastern extremity of the Gulf Stream. Bimini is only fifty miles from Miami in Florida. South-east of Bimini is Andros which, although generally spoken of as one island, is in reality a small archipelago in itself, about 95 miles long with an extreme breadth of 38 miles. Andros is intersected at several points by shallow waterways which permit of navigation through the island, from shore to shore, by vessels of small draught. East of Andros is New Providence, which, although by no means the largest, is easily the most important of the islands, as it contains the capital, Nassau, which is the chief port, and fully a quarter of the total population of the Colony. East again of New Providence lies Eleuthera, with Harbour Island close to its northern shores; on Harbour Island the first settlement was made by the Adventurers who laid the foundations of the present Colony. The chain is continued south-east of Eleuthera by Cat Island, San Salvador (or Watling), the first landfall of Columbus in the New World, Exuma, Long Island, Rum Cay, the Fortune Island group (which includes Crooked Island, Acklin's Island, and Long Cay), Mayaguana, and Inagua.

4. Eastwards of Inagua lie the Turks and Caicos Islands which, although geographically part of the Bahamas, were separated from them politically in 1848 and now form a Dependency of Jamaica.

5. In addition to the islands mentioned there are numerous cays and rocks, the total area of the Colony being about 4,400 square miles or one-half the size of Wales. It is said that there are about 700 islands and over 2,000 rocks. The islands are, as a rule, long, narrow, and low-lying. The ground is very rocky, but among the honeycomb rock there are pockets of rich and fertile earth. Owing to the rocky nature of the soil the plough is never used, and a cultivated "field" in the Bahama Islands would astonish a farmer from any other part of the world. The surface rock is exceedingly hard, but the rock beneath is soft and is easily sawn into blocks, making an excellent building stone.

6. There are no mountains and very few hills, but in spite of this the islands are by no means lacking in beauty, the pure white sand of the beaches and the wonderful colouring of the sea making a picture which is not easily forgotten. It is probable that the islands were all thickly wooded at a comparatively recent date, but little forest remains except at Abaco, Andros, and Grand Bahama. On these three islands there are extensive pine forests, and a certain amount of mahogany and hardwood exists at Andros. A timber company is at present working the pine forest on Abaco.

7. The following table will show the area and population of each of the principal islands of the Group :—

<i>Island of Group.</i>	<i>Area in square miles.</i>	<i>Population at last Census (1921).</i>
Abaco	776	3,993
Andros	1,600	6,976
Berry Islands	14	328
Bimini	8	610
Eleuthera and Harbour Island ...	166	7,547
Exuma and Cays	100	3,730
Grand Bahama	430	1,695
Inagua	560	937
Long Island	130	4,659
Fortune Island group (including Long Cay, Acklin's and Crooked Islands).	204	3,458
Mayaguana	96	432
New Providence	58	12,975
Ragged Island group	5	366
Rum Cay	29	338
Cat Island	160	4,273
San Salvador or Watling	60	686
Totals	4,396	53,003

8. The total population is approximately 53,000, mostly the descendants of African slaves. There is, however, a larger proportion of whites in the Bahamas than in any other West Indian Colony, this being due in the first place to the better climate and in the second place to the fact that after the War of American Independence a number of soldiers were settled in the Bahamas. English is the only language spoken.

9. When the Bahamas were first discovered in 1492 they were inhabited by a peaceful race of Indians who were soon removed to Hayti by the Spaniards to work in the mines. A few stone implements are occasionally found, but, apart from this, there is no trace of the original inhabitants. The Spaniards made no attempt to colonise the islands, which remained uninhabited until about the year 1629, when they were included in a Royal Grant, from which date they were visited from time to time by settlers from Bermuda. In 1647 a Company of Eleutherian Adventurers was formed in London for the purpose of colonising the islands, which were granted by Parliament to the Company despite the earlier Royal Grant. In 1670 yet a third grant was made by Charles II, vesting the islands in Six Lords Proprietors.

10. The Lords Proprietors received very complete powers for the government of the Islands. They were given the right to appoint Governors and other officials, to enact laws with the advice, assent, and approbation of the freemen, to erect forts and raise troops, to make war, and even to confer titles of honour. Two years after the grant of the charter the first Governor was sent to the Bahamas by the Lords Proprietors. He and his successors found it extremely difficult to cope with the buccaneers, who at this time were the real rulers of the settlement. In 1673 one Governor was seized and deported to Jamaica ; in 1690 another was deposed and imprisoned, and it seems that the only Governors who escaped trouble were those who left the inhabitants to do as they pleased. In addition to internal troubles the Governors appointed by the Lords Proprietors had to deal with invasion. In 1680 the Spaniards destroyed the settlement and carried off the Governor to Cuba where he was "roasted on a spit". In 1703 a combined force of French and Spaniards destroyed Nassau once again and carried off the negro slaves, most of the white inhabitants fleeing to Carolina. The new Governor, who arrived in 1704, found New Providence totally uninhabited, and returned to England.

11. Within a few years, however, Nassau was re-established as the headquarters of the pirates in West Indian waters, and so great were the depredations of these pirates that the British Government found it necessary to send out a Governor to control the Colony and to drive the pirates from their stronghold. This Governor, Captain Woodes Rogers, arrived in Nassau in 1718, and in December of that year eight of the leading pirates were executed and the others compelled to give up their former occupation. A period of comparative quiet followed, but in 1776 a fleet belonging to the rebellious American Colonies captured the town of Nassau and carried off the Governor. Some ammunition and a quantity of stores were taken, but the place was evacuated in a few days. Five years later a Spanish force took possession of Nassau and left a garrison, but in 1783 the Spaniards were driven out by a British expedition.

12. The subsequent history of the Bahamas is comparatively uneventful. The abolition of slavery in 1838 caused an economic and social change, and the outbreak of Civil War in the United States led to a period of considerable prosperity in the Bahamas which, between the years 1861 and 1865, were used as a depot for the vessels which were running the "blockade" imposed against the Confederate States. During the Great War, in spite of the distance of the Bahamas from the scene of the conflict, the inhabitants suffered some hardship from the difficulty of obtaining food supplies. The Colony sent a contingent to the British West Indies Regiment and contributed liberally to the Red Cross and other funds.

13. There was a sudden increase in the Revenue of the Colony in 1919 which was the result of large importations of spirits. These importations reached a record in 1922, but have since gradually declined.

14. The value of property has not returned to that prevailing before the land "boom" of three or four years ago which spread to this Colony from Florida. There are few transactions in real estate at present although from time to time citizens of the United States and Canadians purchase land and build winter homes in the Bahamas.

15. The Colony is gradually, but surely establishing its reputation as a tourist resort owing to its unrivalled winter climate, bathing beaches, fishing, yachting, tennis, golf, and old-world atmosphere. For the 1928-1929 Season there are no less than 33 excursion steamers scheduled to call at Nassau, two of these being from the United Kingdom. There are three first class hotels two of which are situated on the water front. The Season is from the end of December to the beginning of April.

16. British gold and silver coins are legal tender in the Colony but a large amount of United States currency and some British currency notes are also in circulation. The Bahamas Government has issued local currency notes of three denominations, viz., 20s., 10s., and 4s., to the total value of £110,000.

II.—GENERAL.

17. The present constitution of the Bahamas is similar to those of the North American Colonies prior to the War of Independence. The Government is modelled upon that of England, the Governor representing the Sovereign, the nominated Legislative Council and the elected House of Assembly representing respectively the Houses of Lords and Commons.

18. "The Eleutherian Adventurers" who came to the Bahamas from Bermuda after the Parliamentary grant of 1647, brought with them the idea of representative Government which already existed in Bermuda, and the affairs of the infant Settlement were managed by a Governor, a Council, and an elected Senate. The charter of 1670 to the Lords Proprietors provided for an elected House of Assembly, and the constitution, much as it exists to-day, was finally settled in 1729 when the Crown assumed direct control of the Colony. The Bahamas enjoy representative, though not responsible, Government. The Executive Government is in the hands of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, appointed by the Crown, who has a negative voice in legislation. He is assisted by an Executive Council not exceeding nine members; the Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, and Receiver-General are members *ex-officio*, the other members being, as a rule, selected from one or other of the two branches of the Legislature. Various executive powers and the right to enact certain subsidiary legislation are vested by law in the Governor in Council.

19. The Legislative Council consists of nine members nominated by the Crown. It has the right to initiate legislation (other than money bills) and to amend bills passed by the House of Assembly

(other than money bills). It may throw out altogether any bills, even those dealing with money. In 1924 the Legislative Council rejected a bill for the reduction of the duty on spirits, which had passed the House of Assembly by a narrow majority.

20. The House of Assembly is composed of 29 members, elected for 15 districts, the qualification for members being possession of real or personal property to the value of £200. The Out Islands seldom return a member of their own community, their 21 representatives being generally inhabitants of New Providence. The qualification for electors is the ownership of land of the value of £5 or the occupation of houses of an annual rental value of £2 8s. in New Providence or half that amount in the Out Islands. Women have not the vote. The life of the House is seven years unless previously dissolved by the Governor.

21. On the 7th June, 1928, the Governor dissolved the House of Assembly owing to the action of the Speaker in withholding a Bill which had been passed by both Houses of the Legislature, after having received the Governor's command to present all Bills that were ready for his assent. At the General Election which followed in June and July, 24 out of the 29 members were returned unopposed. The following table shows the number of electors who voted at the contested elections :—

<i>Constituency.</i>	<i>No. of seats.</i>	<i>No. of unsuccessful candidates.</i>	<i>No. of votes cast for elected candidates.</i>	<i>No. of votes cast for unsuccessful candidates.</i>	<i>Population at 1921 Census.</i>
New Providence (East)(a)	2	—	236	203	
	—	—	235	—	2,000
	—	1	—	—	(approx.)
Cat Island (a) ...	2	1	331	31	4,273
			160	—	
Rum Cay and San Salvador (b).	1	1	107	6	1,024

(a) Each elector had two votes.

(b) Each elector had one vote.

22. The Crown owns a considerable amount of land in the various islands and the receipts from the sale and lease of these Crown lands are placed to the credit of a special fund which is administered by the Governor under the direction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The receipts amounted to £7,237 in 1927, and to £4,379 in 1928.

23. Apart from these Crown funds, the House of Assembly has complete control over the finances of the Colony, subject to the veto of the Legislative Council and the Governor. This control is jealously exercised, and by voting sums to a number of Boards composed largely of members of the Legislature the House exercises a certain measure of executive power.

III.—FINANCE.

24. Totals of revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				£	£
1923-24	...	...	...	553,375	452,044
1924-25	...	...	...	414,314	409,970
1925-26	...	...	...	502,202	374,126
1926-27	...	...	...	531,235	474,653
1927-28	...	...	...	485,319	672,986

25. The revenue in 1913-14 was £100,753, and in 1918-19 it had sunk to £81,049. The estimated revenue for the current year (1928-29) is £440,554, and it is probable that this amount will be realised.

26. There was an excess of assets over liabilities at the end of March, 1928, of £863,646. Of this sum, £476,337 was invested in England in trustee securities bearing interest at approximately 5 per cent. £438,146 of the assets represent loans at 3 per cent. interest to the New Colonial Hotel Company and the Golf Course Company ; and £220,000 to the Waterloo Hotel Company at 4 per cent.

27. The Public Debt at the same date amounted to £159,330, the whole of this amount having been raised locally by debentures. Provision is made by law for an annual contribution from the general revenue of the Colony to a sinking fund for the redemption of these debentures as they fall due.

28. The very large public works which have been carried out during the past few years, including the dredging of a harbour, the building of a wharf, and the installation of water and sewerage systems, have been financed partly from general revenue, and partly by advances obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies. It is proposed to liquidate these advances by means of savings, and thus obviate if possible the necessity of either disposing of investments or raising a loan.

IV.—PRODUCTION.

29. *Agriculture.*—Although the Bahamas are not well adapted to agriculture owing to the rocky state of the land and poverty of the soil, there are certain products which thrive and are produced in great quantities with the assistance of fertilizers. The chief agricultural products are tomatoes and sisal hemp. Pineapples and citrus fruits used to be grown and exported in large quantities some years ago, but owing to the failure of the soil and foreign competition in the former and the appearance of the blue-gray fly in the latter, the production has been greatly reduced and only small quantities of canned pineapples are now exported. The tomato industry has

only been introduced into the Bahamas within recent years, but it is rapidly developing, although if it is going to prove a real success and help to the growers and the Colony generally, it will require co-operative action in the growing, grading, packing and exporting of this vegetable. Sisal is a great help to the peasant farmer and tides him over many a period of hard times, for he is always able to find a market for sisal although at times the price may be low. Sisal has been shipped mostly to the United States of America in the past but recently a market appears to be opening up in the United Kingdom for this commodity.

30. Owing to the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928 and the carrying out of extensive public works in Nassau, the Out Island peasants have flocked into Nassau in search of work with the result that agriculture on the Out Islands has been more or less neglected. The Government is, however, doing its utmost to urge and encourage these people to return to their homes and the land once more, for the prosperity of the Colony depends on the Out Islands and they in turn on their efforts at self-support, chiefly from the soil.

31. *Forestry*.—The Colony is sub-tropical and both northern and tropical plants exist, the pine tree and the palm growing literally side by side. On several of the islands there are extensive areas of pine forests growing on land which is generally rocky and unsuited to agriculture, such land being commonly referred to by the suggestive name of “pine barren.” The pine trees are suitable for conversion into lumber, and the whole of the forests are already let on licence to private firms, who pay a royalty on all timber obtained. There are five such timber concessions or licences, which together cover an area of 473 square miles, but active work is at present being carried out on only two of the areas.

32. Other woods of commercial value are found in limited quantities, and a small export trade is carried on in *lignum vitæ* and logwood. *Sabicu*, locally known as “horseflesh,” is found, and the supply is consumed locally. There are also small quantities of Madera and cedar.

33. *Cascarilla* bark grows wild on certain islands in the Colony, Atwood's Cay producing the greatest in quality and quantity. There is a fairly steady demand for this bark, and the Government closes Atwood's Cay at intervals to the gathering of bark in order to prevent the shrub from being exterminated.

34. *Fisheries*.—Fish abound in the Bahamas, but only sufficient are caught for local consumption, there being no attempt at export. The following are the names of those most commonly eaten :—

Margate, Grouper, Jack, Hog Fish, Amber Fish, Yellow Tail, Snapper, Bone Fish, Turbot, Black Fish, King Fish, Grunt, Hound Fish, Goggle-eye, and Jew Fish.

A factory is in the process of being established at Eleuthera for the canning and exporting of turtle and craw fish.

35. Sponging is the most important industry of the Colony, and affords employment for a large number of men and boys. Schooners with complements of small dinghies make voyages to the shallow waters of the Colony, the principal fishing ground being that known as "The Mud," which is situated to the west of Andros. The sponges are hooked from the bottom by men in the dinghies by means of a hook at the end of a large staff and the use of a water glass with which the sponges are easily seen on the bottom as the water is so clear and transparent. Coarse salt is produced from salt ponds or "pans" in several of the Out Islands, but very little is exported, as there does not appear to be any great demand at present.

36. The following table gives the quantity and value of each of the principal articles of local produce exported from the Colony during the past five years :—

		1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (Approx.)
Cascarilla Bark ...	... lb.	15,453	86,578	28,554	31,920	57,344
	£	547	4,183	1,606	1,459	2,189
Tomatoes, raw ...	... M bushels	117	57	106	214	189
	£	37,388	16,710	26,516	92,497	99,017
Sisal Hemp ...	... Tons	1,808	2,264	1,693	596	641
	£	37,830	52,137	40,082	10,632	12,357
Abaco pine timber ...	... M feet	6,302	11,349	9,052	8,082	3,962
	£	35,937	61,576	48,958	49,854	21,640
Woods, other ...	... Tons	84	108	127	76	118
	£	281	349	600	335	416
Shell, Tortoise ...	... lb.	7,812	10,449	6,463	7,740	7,028
	£	18,243	23,350	12,093	13,421	12,121
Shell, Conch ...	... No.	68,000	21,000	5,000	2,900	37,550
	£	268	179	365	225	208
Sponge ...	... M. lb.	1,490	1,655	1,532	959	813
	£	131,618	149,820	134,234	109,203	120,666

V.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

37. The general trade of the Colony is still feeling the effects of the three hurricanes of 1926 and the collapse of the real estate boom. The value of imports in 1928 was £13,680 less than in 1927, and there was a decrease of £62,685 in the value of exports.

38. By referring to the statistics of the Colony it will be seen that imports from the United Kingdom have decreased from £758,041 in 1923 to £401,795 in 1928; whilst imports from the United States have decreased from £1,070,374 in 1923 to £731,684 in 1928. On the other hand, imports from Canada have increased from £160,610 in 1923 to £455,257 in 1928. With regard to exports, trade with the United Kingdom has increased from £39,483 in 1923 to £47,132 in 1928.

39. The total value of the trade of the Colony for the past five years has been as follows :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (Approx.)
	£	£	£	£	£
Imports	1,553,143	1,760,987	2,059,755	1,844,932	1,845,043
Exports	626,353	481,352	406,271	483,773	472,379
Total (excluding specie) ...	2,179,496	2,242,339	2,466,026	2,328,705	2,317,422

40. The value of the imports from the three principal countries of origin for the same period was as follow :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (Approx.)
	£	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	507,459	560,794	525,625	438,424	422,032
Canada	173,181	240,295	462,273	401,498	437,138
United States of America	747,636	782,286	880,645	767,894	765,345

41. The values of the principal classes of articles imported were as follows :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928. (Approx.)
	£	£	£	£	£
Spirits	591,040	637,311	750,448	614,372	648,155
Wines	29,581	38,423	44,688	38,826	43,712
Cordials and Liqueurs ...	7,606	9,378	9,871	11,664	11,916
Salt	33,606	59,334	45,680	32,412	32,208
Tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.	22,682	22,133	24,787	20,926	20,169
Foodstuffs	307,280	322,585	406,896	376,023	353,008
Lumber and Shingles ...	26,513	38,791	55,024	52,990	36,510
Boots and Shoes	21,683	19,523	33,560	23,344	24,569
Cotton Manufactures ...	79,150	93,870	102,484	61,544	65,144
Metals, iron and steel, manufactures of.	80,141	54,899	59,047	111,331	108,028
Oils	43,634	43,374	59,972	65,462	49,496
Motor-cars, trucks, and parts of.	16,966	32,566	40,097	26,237	30,237

42. Of local produce, the whole of the exports of tomatoes and most of the Bahamas sisal hemp go to the United States of America, while the exports of sponge go chiefly to United States of America, United Kingdom, France, and Germany; lumber is exported to Cuba and turtle shell to the United Kingdom.

43. Trade with the United Kingdom is hampered considerably by difficulties of communication. There is no direct mail service, and the cargo steamers take about three weeks from England to the Bahamas and still longer on the return journey. New York on the other hand, is less than three days by steamer from the Bahamas, and the ports of Florida are within a few hours steam. In these circumstances it is not remarkable that there should be a close trade relationship between the Bahamas and the United States. There is

a little trade with Jamaica and Bermuda, with which places there is direct communication ; but, as a result of the recent Trade Agreement between Canada and the West Indies, the volume of trade with the Dominion is steadily increasing, particularly as regards importations of flour, sugar, oats, and potatoes. The decrease of imports from Canada in 1927 as compared with the previous year is due to the general depression, and in no way affects the prospects of trade between Canada and the Bahamas, which are extremely hopeful, provided that Canadian exporters will send competent salesmen to the Colony to push the sale of their produce.

44. There are several wholesale houses dealing in provisions and dry goods. One New York commission house has an agent in Nassau and keeps in stock a supply of flour, rice, hominy, and meal. The majority of the stores import direct either from the United States of America or the United Kingdom.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

45. In 1928, 1,116 steamers and sailing vessels, of a total of 732,458 tons, entered at the ports of the Colony, principally at Nassau. There is a monthly freight service from England via Bermuda by the Steamers of the Leyland and Harrison Lines. There is a weekly passenger and freight service during the winter months, and during the summer a fortnightly service from and to New York by the steamers of the Munson Line, which are under contract with the Government. A subsidy is paid to the steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, which call every three weeks on their voyage from a Canadian port to Bermuda, Nassau, Jamaica, and British Honduras ; the steamers also call at Nassau on their return trip northwards. There is frequent communication between Nassau and Miami, Florida. Vessels of the Royal Mail Line also call at Nassau.

46. Communication with the Out Islands is maintained by sailing vessels and motor boats, but, owing to the class of boat employed, the voyages are not over comfortable or very reliable.

47. There are numerous lighthouses on the various islands, some maintained by the Imperial Board of Trade and the others by the Bahamas Government. The waters of the Colony are full of shoals and rocks and navigation is difficult.

48. *Roads.*—In the Out Islands there is little wheeled traffic and the roads are scarcely more than paths in some instances. In New Providence, on the other hand, there are good roads and a considerable number of motors and carriages, over 1,100 motor vehicles being licensed. During recent years the roads in New Providence have been greatly improved ; most of the roads in the city have been oiled, and the main country roads east and west of the city have been rebuilt and oiled for a number of miles.

49. The Government's plan for developing the Out Islands is that of concentrating on one Island at a time. At present road construction is being carried out at Eleuthera where a road of about 70 miles in length which is being made suitable for motor traffic will shortly be completed; the idea being to encourage and develop agriculture.

50. *Post Office*.—The various postal services have been well maintained during the year with two or three exceptions caused by the hurricanes. The Cash-on-delivery system is in force in New Providence. Mails to and from the United Kingdom have to pass through New York as there is no direct Mail Service. Domestic Parcel Post was established on the 1st December, 1928, and all District Post Offices were made Money Order Offices on the same date.

51. *Telegraphs*.—This service, which is maintained by the Bahamas Government, consists of a central station of five kilowatts power spark and $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilowatts, continuous wave, at Nassau, and nine stations of half or one kilowatt power and eight smaller stations each of 25 watts, continuous wave, at various Out Islands. The latter stations have proved of great benefit to the industries of the islands, and are very useful for administrative purposes, and for dissemination of storm warnings. The Nassau station has operated throughout the year without any interruption, except for a short time after the September hurricane, and has handled with complete satisfaction the ever-growing volume of telegraph traffic. The telegraph cable between Nassau and Jupiter, Florida, broke down some years ago and was abandoned owing to cost of upkeep and the present wireless service substituted.

52. *Telephones*.—In Nassau there is a Government telephone system with 1,000 subscribers. It is what is known as the Magneto system. Cat Island, Eleuthera, and Long Island have all their principal settlements connected up by telephone.

VII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

53. The law in force in the Colony consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament, and the Acts passed by the local Legislature. The Supreme Court is presided over by a Chief Justice; appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate in Nassau who goes on circuit annually in the Out Islands to try appeals from the decisions of the Commissioners in charge of each district. The Registrar-General also makes a similar circuit once a year.

54. The Colony's armed Police Force consists of 125 rank and file and 4 Officers. The force is stationed chiefly in Nassau, the Out Islands being policed mostly by local constables.

55. The main prison is in Nassau. All long term prisoners are sent to Nassau to undergo their sentences. A riot occurred in the prison during the year, and resulted in the shooting of one of the prisoners. Steps have been taken to improve the discipline in the prison and obtain a better type of warder.

VIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

56. The water supply scheme for the City of Nassau was completed on the 30th September, 1928. The area which is supplied with water is about eight square miles in extent. The population of Nassau is approximately 15,000 persons. The waterworks are able to deliver 500,000 gallons per day. Pure fresh water is pumped from the south side of the Blue Hills to a service reservoir located on Fort Fincastle Hill, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. The capacity of the reservoir is 325,000 gallons. This reservoir serves the entire low-lying area of the City. Within 150 yards of the reservoir is located the High Level Water Tower, which has a capacity of 85,000 gallons. This tower serves the residences located on the high ground overlooking the City as well as serving the Fire Department for fire fighting purposes.

57. The drainage and sewerage scheme for the City is rapidly nearing completion, about 85 per cent. of the work having been accomplished. It is hoped to complete the work by the 31st March, 1929.

58. The dredging of the main entrance channel and turning basin of Nassau Harbour was completed on the 31st August, 1928. The main entrance channel has a width of 730 feet at its mouth, and narrows to 250 feet. The depth of water for 2,000 feet up the entrance of the channel from the Bar is 27 feet (L.W.O.S.T.), and from there on to the turning basin it is 25 feet (L.W.O.S.T.). The turning basin is oval in shape, being 1,500 feet long and 875 feet wide. The depth of water in the basin is 25 feet (L.W.O.S.T.).

59. A concrete Island Wharf 600 feet long and 100 feet wide has been constructed on the southern side of the turning basin and 142 feet north of Rawson Square water front. This wharf is connected to the main water front at Rawson Square by a steel bridge 50 feet wide. On the Wharf is a shed 550 feet long and 60 feet wide. The Wharf was completed on the 31st July, 1928, and the shed on the 31st December, 1928.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

60. Although the typhoid incidence made a sudden jump from 38 in 1926 to 110 in 1927, the general health was exceptionally good. During the month of January there was not a single notification sent to the Board of Health. In February there were only two notifications, one of typhoid and one of tuberculosis. From March to May there was an increase in the typhoid rate from 13 to 30,

which gradually declined to 3 in December. There were seven cases of tuberculosis in all reported for the year, puerperal sepsis 2, influenza 1. In May, measles made its appearance in the Colony, 13 cases being notified in that month. This disease was more or less epidemic during the year, a total of 88 cases being reported to the Board of Health. Only two cases of chicken-pox, whooping cough, and leprosy were reported for the year.

X.—EDUCATION.

61. Primary education is compulsory for children between the ages of six and fourteen years, and is provided by the Government. In 1927-28 a sum of £31,294 was expended from public funds on primary education under the direction of the Board of Education, a body nominated by the Governor.

62. There are now seven Government and grant-in-aid primary schools in New Providence (population 13,000) and 100 in the Out Islands (population 40,000). At the first sight the number of schools seems adequate, but it must be remembered that there are so many islands, and the settlements on these islands are so scattered, that a great many children are not within reach of a school. Many of the children who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads to get to their schools; to at least one school, children come in boats, managed by themselves, from neighbouring "cays".

63. The chief handicap of education, however, is the shortage of efficient teachers. The lonely life on the Out Islands, and the comparatively small salary, does not attract the best type of man, and probably not half of the teachers in the Out Islands could be described as competent. There are very few assistant teachers and in a large school the teacher is forced to depend on the help given him by "monitors," who, in many cases, are almost as ignorant as the pupils they try to teach. The Government is alive to the seriousness of the situation, and during the year 1925 a Government High School was started in Nassau to train teachers and to provide a secondary education for those who can afford to pay the small fees charged. The Board of Education has secured the services of five teachers from England, who have been stationed at the Out Islands with a view to raising the standard of education.

64. Apart from the Government High School referred to, secondary education is in the hands of the various religious bodies, but up to the present even secondary education has not reached a very high standard.

XI.—LANDS.

65. The total area of the Colony is estimated at about 4,400 square miles, and of this area only 596½ square miles have been alienated, and are now in private hands, in addition to the 430 square miles of Grand Bahama which is being leased to the Grand Bahama Mercantile

and Development Company, Limited. The large area still remaining to the Crown is chiefly comprised of swamp and rocky and barren land, as the land most suitable for agriculture was acquired long ago by private persons.

66. The present policy of the Crown is not to sell lands outright but to rent on a tenancy until such time as the tenant has effected permanent improvements, either by building or agriculture, when an application for a grant in fee simple would be considered. During the year 1928, 156 Crown Land Grants have been issued for a total area of 1,339 acres. During the land boom in 1924–26, the value of all lands increased considerably, especially on the Island of New Providence on which Nassau, the Capital of the Colony stands. Since this period, though the value is still much above the pre-boom prices, yet it has decreased to a great extent. Crown Land in New Providence is of little agricultural value and, at present, there is no great demand for home sites.

67. Crown Land in New Providence is usually sold by auction at an upset price fixed according to value, and deferred payments are allowed. On the small outer islands of the Colony leases are granted with the right to purchase if an island is permanently improved. On the larger islands, if extensive tracts are sold, special terms are arranged.

XII.—LABOUR.

68. The lack of remunerative industries in the Out Islands has, in the past, caused a steady flow of emigration to Florida, and many of the islands were being steadily depopulated. The new United States immigration law, which came into force in 1914, put an abrupt stop to this movement of the population, but, owing to the large amount of work put in hand by real estate developers and builders, there was ample employment for all until towards the end of 1926, and the price of labour was very high. In 1926–27 ordinary unskilled labour of poor quality, was paid at the rate of 5s. to 6s. a day, while carpenters and masons drew four times as much. During the last twelve months, a great deal of the unemployment has been absorbed by work afforded by the installation of a sewerage system in New Providence.

69. Owing to the uncompromising nature of the soil and the difficulties of transporting their crops to Nassau, there is not a great deal of money to be made by agriculturists in the Out Islands and the people have, in recent years, flocked to Nassau in search of employment. The temporary set-back to the prosperity of the Colony, caused by the hurricanes of 1926 and 1928 and the slump in real estate development, will probably prove to be a blessing in disguise, as the people are realising the advisability of industries more stable than those they have depended upon in the past, and the Government is doing its best to induce them to return to agriculture.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

70. The year 1928 appears to have been one of storms in many parts of the world and the Bahamas did not escape its share. This was most unfortunate as the Colony was just recovering from the effects of the severe hurricanes of 1926, after escaping altogether in 1927. On August the 6th there was a storm of some intensity, which fortunately only affected seriously the northern part of Andros, but which caused considerable damage to property and crops and caused the loss of a fishing vessel with its entire crew of seven. In September a far more severe hurricane, the fourth in a little over two years, which originated about 150 miles east of Montserrat passed over the Bahamas leaving in its wake great destruction of houses, property, and crops, but very little damage to shipping and only one death caused by a falling house. The shipping and inhabitants escaped disaster due chiefly to the timely warning received about seven days before hand of the approach of the storm, and the fact that the warnings emphasised that it was a dangerous storm of great intensity. Also the Out Island Districts of the Colony being practically all linked up with Nassau the capital by a chain of wireless stations, enabled the distant islands to be warned and all possible precautions to be taken. The Islands chiefly affected by this storm were, Cat Island, Eleuthera, (including Harbour Island), New Providence, Bimini, and Grand Bahama. After the hurricane relief supplies were distributed where necessary, public works started to afford employment and assistance given in repairing and replacing damaged homes. The wind reached a velocity of 125 M.P.H. and the barometer fell 28.08 which is the lowest reading recorded during any storm in this Colony since 1866.

71. The Colony was honoured in September by a visit from H.R.H. Prince George, who was serving on H.M.S. "Durban" which was ordered to the Bahamas for the purpose of rendering assistance after the September hurricane. With the permission of His Majesty the King the Prince landed officially at Nassau on the 1st October and was received on the wharf by the Governor and the Members of the Executive Council, and by a Guard of Honour furnished by the Police. His Royal Highness after inspecting the Guard of Honour, then drove with the Governor through the principal streets of Nassau which were decorated with flags and lined by crowds of people anxious to show their loyalty to the Throne. The school children paraded in full force and were inspected by the Prince, to whom a number of leading citizens and their wives were subsequently presented at Government House. This was the first visit to the Colony of a member of the royal family since that of Prince Albert, in 1861, and the welcome given to his Royal Highness by the people of Nassau was enthusiastic. With the Prince's permission the recently completed wharf has been named Prince George's Wharf in memory of the visit.

72. The Bahamas appointed a delegate to represent the Colony at the First West Indies Conference to be held in Barbados in January, 1929.

73. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch in Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank which is operated under the Post Office Department.

74. The following are the most important Acts passed during the year :—

The Medical Department Act, 1928.—This Act was passed with the object of giving effect to the recommendations of Sir Wilfred Beveridge for the reorganisation of the Public Health Service of the Colony as contained in his report on the Public Health and Medical conditions in New Providence.

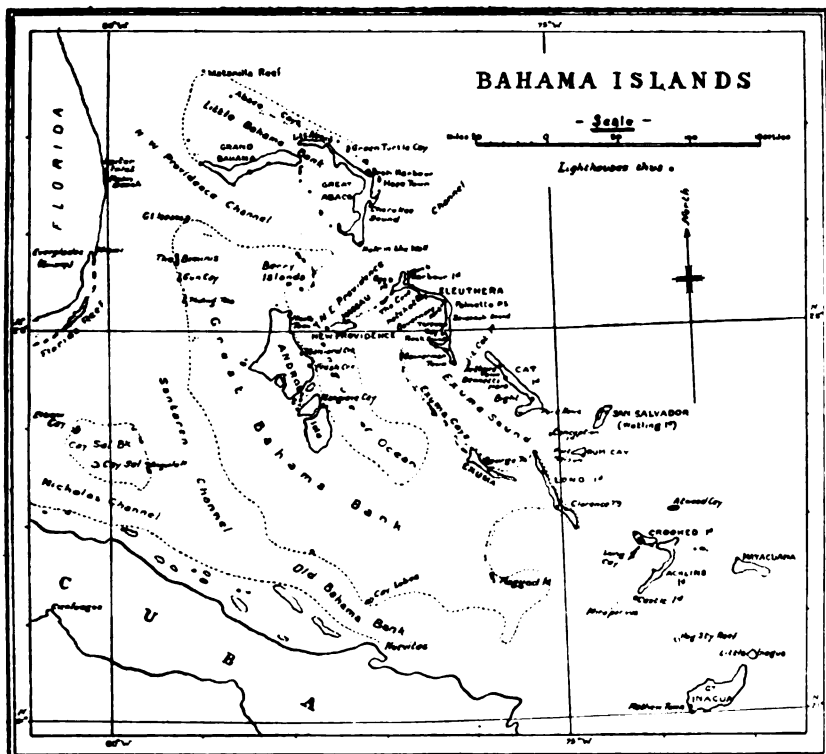
The Public Establishments Act, 1928.—This Act was passed with a view to improving the conditions in the Public Service of the Colony in order to attract the best men available and to secure the desirable degree of efficiency from and contentment of the present staff.

The Immigration Act, 1928.—This Act originated in the House of Assembly and was reported by the Select Committee appointed “to consider what action (if any) should be taken to limit and control the business activities of non-residents of the Colony.”

CHAS. P. BETHEL,
Acting Colonial Secretary

Nassau,

12th March, 1929.



Reports of Imperial and Colonial Interest.

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(Unfederated Malay States)

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(1st July, 1927—19th June, 1928)

(NOTE.—The Reports for the Year 1345 A.H. (12th July, 1926—30th June, 1927) were published in the Volume of Reports of the Unfederated Malay States for 1927 (No. 1415, Price 5s. 9d.)



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH ADVISER TO THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT

for the year 1346 A.H.

(1ST JULY, 1927—19TH JUNE, 1928)

BY

T. W. CLAYTON,

British Adviser to the Kedah Government,

WITH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH ADVISER TO THE PERLIS GOVERNMENT

for the same period

BY

L. A. ALLEN,

Acting British Adviser to the Perlis Government.

Alor Star:

PRINTED AT THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1928.

STATE OF KEDAH.

CONTENTS.

PREFATORY NOTE.

	Page.
A.—GEOGRAPHICAL	1
B.—HISTORICAL	1

ANNUAL REPORT, 1346.

I.—FINANCIAL	3
II.—STATE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATION	4
III.—LANDS	5
IV.—RUBBER RESTRICTION	8
V.—SURVEYS	9
VI.—AGRICULTURE	10
VII.—MINES	11
VIII.—FORESTS	12
IX.—COURTS	13
X.—POLICE	14
XI.—PRISONS	15
XII.—MEDICAL AND HEALTH	17
XIII.—VETERINARY	19
XIV.—EDUCATION	20
XV.—LABOUR	22
XVI.—CHINESE PROTECTORATE	23
XVII.—SANITARY BOARDS	23
XVIII.—MONOPOLIES AND CUSTOMS	25
XIX.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	26
XX.—PUBLIC WORKS	27
XXI.—PRINTING	30
XXII.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES	30
XXIII.—MARINE	31
XXIV.—TRADE	32
XXV.—GENERAL	32

APPENDICES.

A.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH ZULHIJAH, 1346 (19-6-28)	35
B.—REVENUE A.H. 1342-1346 (A.D. 1924-1928)	36
C.—EXPENDITURE A.H. 1342-1346 (A.D. 1924-1928)... ..	37
D.—LAND REVENUE A.H. 1346	38-39
E.—RETURN OF CASES TRIED IN COURTS 1346	40
F.—RETURN OF RAINFALL 1928	41
G.—ANNUAL SHADE TEMPERATURE	42
H.—STATISTICS OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	43

STATE OF KEDAH.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR A. H. 1346 (1ST JULY 1927 TO 19TH
JUNE, 1928).

[*The value of the dollar is 2s. 4d.*]

PREFATORY NOTE.

A.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Kedah is a Malay State on the West Coast of the Malay Peninsula, situated between the parallels of 5.50 and 6.40 North Latitude and the meridians of 99.40 and 100.55 East Longitude. It is bordered on the interior by the Siamese States of Singora and Patani, and by the State of Perak (Federated Malay States); it extends northwards on the sea coast to the River Sanglang, its boundary with its northern neighbour, the State of Perlis (under British protection), and southwards to the Muda River, its boundary with Province Wellesley in the south: thence the State extends behind Province Wellesley down to the northern bank of the Krian River, which forms its boundary with Pérak.

2. The State includes the island of Langkawi, and a number of adjoining islands, of which Pulau Tuba is the largest. The mainland of Kedah is about 105 miles in length, and at its widest part is about 65 miles in width. Its area including the Langkawi group of islands is about 3,648 square miles. The two highest peaks of the mainland are Gunong Jerai—better known as Kedah Peak (3,986 feet)—and Bukit Perak (2,320 feet). Gunong Raia on Langkawi Island is 2,950 feet high.

B.—HISTORICAL.

3. The earliest references to Kedah with its capital Langkasuka are to be found in the "Hikayat Marong Mahawangsa" or "Kedah Annals". Various mention of Queddah is made by Portuguese and Dutch writers and in 1592 Captain Lancaster called at Pulopinaon (Penang),

4. During the next 200 years the fortunes of Kedah varied under the rule of Siam until, in 1786 A. D. under Captain Light's "Agreement with the King of Queddah for the cession of Prince of Wales' Island", Penang was occupied and the British Flag hoisted there on 12th August, 1786.

5. This Agreement was modified by Treaty in 1791 whereby the Kedah Government was to receive \$6,000 every year from the Honourable East India Company "so long as the English continue in possession of Pulo Pinang". In 1800 the strip of coast territory now known as Province Wellesley was ceded to the Honourable East India Company in return for a further \$4,000 per annum. These annual payments are still made by the Straits Settlements Government.

6. Upon the occupation of Kedah in 1821 A. D., the Siamese Government divided the Kingdom of Kedah into four parts: Setul, Perlis, Kubang Pasu and Kedah, placing each under a separate ruler. In A. D. 1843, the Sultan of Kedah (who, after his escape to Province Wellesley in 1821, had lived in retreat in Malacca) was allowed to return to Alor Star, and to reassume the rulership of the last mentioned of these four parts. Setul, Perlis, and Kubang Pasu, however, remained under their separate rulers, who were made independent of the Sultan of Kedah.

7. Kubang Pasu is a sparsely populated district in the interior of Kedah, between Kota Star and the Singora frontier, and when Tunku Anum, the Rajah of Kubang Pasu, died some years later, the Siamese Government allowed the district to again become part of Kedah. It is now administered by a District Officer. The Rajah of Perlis is independent of the Sultan of Kedah, and has an entirely separate Government. Setul is now a part of Siam.

8. His Highness Sir Abdul Hamid Halimshah, K.C.M.G., ibni Sultan Ahmad Tajudin, the present Sultan, succeeded to the throne in the year A. D. 1881. In consequence of His Highness' bad health, his eldest son, H. H. Tunku Ibrahim, C.M.G., C.V.O., has acted as Regent since the year 1914.

9. On the 23rd July, 1905, the Sultan issued an Edict appointing a Council of State to assist in the "Administration of all Public Affairs".

10. On the 10th March, 1909, the Anglo-Siamese Treaty was signed whereby the sovereignty of Kedah was transferred from Siam to Great Britain.

11. On the 1st November, 1923, at Singapore, a Treaty was signed between the British and the Kedah Governments, by which the Kedah Government agreed to continue under the protection of His Britannic Majesty, who shall exercise the rights of suzerainty, and also to accept a British Adviser.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1346.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The revenue for 1346 amounted to \$7,722,507 as compared with \$8,988,429 in 1345 and \$9,179,487 in 1344, and was \$129,545 below the estimate.

2. A comparative statement of revenue collected under various headings is shown in Appendix 'B'. It will be seen that the main decreases were under Customs, Opium Monopoly, and Land Sales. Details of Customs revenue are given under the heading 'Customs'. The low price of rubber and low percentage of release under the Restriction Scheme accounted directly or indirectly for fall in revenue.

3. The percentage contributions of the principal heads of revenue to the total revenue during the last ten years are as under:—

Heads.	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345	1346
Opium Monopoly ...	45	45	30	31	30	30	30½	26½	29½	28
Customs (Liquor and Tobacco)... ..	9½	9½	11	8½	8½	9½	9½	10½	11½	13
Customs (Other heads)	10½	11½	10	11	18½	18½	0	31	24½	20½
Land Revenue including Land Sales	18	20	25½	18	17	18	18½	15	18½	14½
Other Heads	17	14	23½	31½	25½	24½	19½	17	19½	24
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

4. The total expenditure in 1346 was \$7,335,338 as compared with \$6,396,507 in 1345 and \$5,481,218 for 1344, and was \$387,969 below the estimate. This total included \$300,000 for the Opium Revenue Replacement Fund.

Ruling House Allowances, pensions, etc. shows an increase of \$72,109 as compared with the previous year, and of \$77,528 as compared with the estimate. This was partly due to the amendment of the Pensions Enactment to allow the commutation of a quarter of the pension into a gratuity.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department showed an increase of over \$200,000 due to expenditure on new trunk lines and general remodelling of the telephone system.

5. Investments (including Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve and Investments Depreciation Reserve) amounted to \$11,117,775 as compared with \$10,106,283 at the beginning of the year.

6. The excess of assets over liabilities at the end of the year amounted to \$6,690,947, which does not include the sum of \$4,222,500 placed to the Opium Replacement Reserve, or the \$119,560 set aside as an Investments Depreciation Reserve.

The following are shown in Appendices:—

Appendix 'A'—Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Appendix 'B'—Statement of Revenue for the last 5 years.

Appendix 'C'—Statement of Expenditure for the last 5 years.

II.—STATE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATION.

7. 41 meetings of the State Council were held during the year at which, in addition to the ordinary work of administration, the following Enactments were passed:—

1. The Vagrancy Enactment.
2. The Prisons Enactment.
3. The Rubber Supervision Enactment.
4. The Mineral Ore Buyers Enactment.
5. The Land (Amendment) Enactment.
6. The Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases (Amendment) Enactment.

7. The Health Board Enactment.
 8. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) (Amendment No. 1) Enactment.
 9. The Courts (Amendment) Enactment.
 10. The Burials Enactment.
 11. The Drainage Rate Enactment.
 12. The Cattle Registration Enactment.
 13. The Malay Reservations (Amendment) Enactment.
 14. The Pensions (Amendment) Enactment.
 15. The Petroleum (Amendment) Enactment.
8. Rules, Regulations, etc. under the following Enactments were passed during the year:—

The Petroleum Enactment, 1337.

The Customs Enactment, 1343.

The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Enactment, 1341.

The Malay Reservations Enactment, 1340.

The Prisons Enactment, 1346.

The Sanitary Board Enactment, 1334.

The Vagrancy Enactment, 1346.

The Burials Enactment, 1346.

The Labour Code, 1345.

The Motor Cars Enactment, 1343.

III.—LANDS.

9. The revenue for the year A. H. 1346 was \$1,105,670 as compared with \$1,311,558 in A. H. 1345. Comparative figures under the various main heads are given below:—

Heads	Actual 1345	Actual 1346	Estimated 1346
	\$	\$	\$
Premium ...	448,503	253,801	373,500
Land Tax and Rent ...	655,779	670,214	666,500
Commission ...	78,833	80,789	74,900
Registration Fees ...	26,098	21,632	25,600
Survey Fees ...	52,864	34,879	41,550
Boundary Marks ...	5,749	4,141	3,830
Miscellaneous ...	43,732	40,211	42,700
TOTAL ...	1,311,558	1,105,670	1,228,580

10. The 1346 revenue was below the 1345 revenue by \$205,888, and below the estimate by \$122,910. The decrease is accounted for mainly by the drop (\$194,699) in premium, due generally to the decrease in large alienations, and particularly to the postponement of sales of land in the Gurun auction area. Permanent revenue in the form of rent showed a satisfactory normal increase.

11. Current rent at the beginning of the year stood on the rent-rolls at \$682,644 or \$10,522 more than at the beginning of the preceding year. Rents remitted to the Members of the Ruling House, Penghulus and other privileged persons amounted to \$21,851 or \$53 more than in 1345. Arrears of rent at the end of the year amounted to \$376, shown on the Bandar Bahru rent-rolls. This sum represents defalcations, which were not discovered till the close of the year. The money had actually been paid but was misappropriated by a Clerk. Apart from this, there was a clean sheet of arrears for the second time in succession.

12. The expenditure was \$280,207 against \$261,777 in A. H. 1345 and \$248,456 in A. H. 1344. The increase was mainly under personal emoluments. In Kota Star, the salaries of Penghulus (\$15,116) are shown as a Land Office charge, in other districts as a District Office charge.

13. Only two applications for areas exceeding 50 relongs ($35\frac{1}{2}$ acres) remained undealt with at the end of the year. Applications for areas not exceeding 50 relongs undealt with at the end of the year amounted to 9,344 applications comprising an area of 38,013 acres, as compared with 5,900 applications for 25,021 acres undealt with at the end of the previous year.

14. The number of applications for small areas disposed of was 5,988 against 5,924 in the preceding year. The Land Officers are reported to be somewhat diffident of exercising their newly acquired powers of alienation in Malay Reservations, but it is anticipated that there will be more progress when they have become used to their new duties.

15. The area alienated in the State, exclusive of mining land, is as follows:—

Nature of Title	Number	Area
Final Grants	37,057	346,921 acres
Old Grants	4,079	28,146 „
Provisional Grants	46,400	179,207 „
Permits	2,076	7,469 „
Banchi Sewa (Lots shown on Record of Occupation)	17,564	24,223 „
Approved applications ...	15,635	58,061 „
TOTAL 1346 ...	122,811	644,027 acres
TOTAL 1345 ...	119,447	585,201 acres

The area and the number of lots finally surveyed (final grants) are rather more than half and less than a third respectively of the total area and the total number of lots alienated.

16. The number of old grants, permits and *banchi sewa* entries shows a reduction of 829 in numbers—a slow rate of replacement of old titles.

17. The number of titles awaiting engrossment in the Director's Office at the end of the year was 1,792 as compared with 2,313 at the end of the previous year. The issues of Final and Provisional Grants in Land Offices were 3,350 and 1,763 respectively as compared with 4,569 and 2,474 in the preceding year.

18. 533 settlement tracings (survey) comprising 5,202 lots, area 31,187 acres, and 460 tracings (demarkation) comprising 4,110 lots, area 10,603 acres, were settled.

19. Dealings registered in the Land Offices were as follows:—

	Number in 1346	Considera- tion	Com- mission
	\$	\$	\$
Transfers for value	3,909	7,506,754	48,843
Transfers by gift	1,014	219,825	1,891
Charges	3,398	6,951,797	30,053
Miscellaneous Documents ...	3,294	...	...
TOTAL ...	11,615	14,678,376	80,787

The number of transfers in 1345 were 4,752, consideration \$7,301,472, charges 3,121, consideration \$4,040,588.

20. Mr. H. C. Eckhardt filled the appointment of Adviser, Lands, and Inche Mohamed Sheriff of Director of Lands throughout the year.

IV.—RUBBER RESTRICTION.

21. The total Standard Production for the Sixth Restriction Year (1927—1928) was 27,168 tons as against 27,493 tons in the previous year, showing increases of 245 and 229 tons in small and medium holdings respectively, but a decrease of 799 tons in holdings over 100 acres. The reduction of the total Standard Production is due to the introduction as from 1st November, 1927 of new rules of assessment reducing the standard of tapping to "one cut on half the circumference of the tree on every third day" from "every alternate day", and omitting any allowance on trees 5 years' old.

22. Out of a total of 194,503 acres assessed 123,172 were assessed on scale; of the balance 737 acres were assessed at 500 lbs., 8,117 at rates between 400 and 500 lbs., 55,379 at rates between 300 and 400 lbs., and 7,098 at rates under 300 lbs.

23. The actual area planted with rubber at the beginning of the Sixth Restriction Year is given below, figures for B and C may be regarded as accurate, figure for A is approximate.

Actual area planted with rubber 1926—1927

	1919 or earlier	1920- 1922	1923- 1927	Total
	acres	acres	acres	acres
A. Areas under 25 acres ...	54,257	11,284	5,224	70,765
B. Areas 25 to 100 acres ...	17,204	1,448	2,671	21,323
C. Areas over 100 acres ...	110,237	20,074	48,787	179,098
TOTAL ...	181,698	32,806	56,682	271,186

V.—SURVEYS.

FIELD OUTPUT AND COST.

24. *Theodolite Surveys.* 129,437 chains (1,618 miles) were measured at a cost (including supervision and control) of 72 cents a chain as against 129,346 chains (1,617 miles) and 71 cents a chain in 1345.

5,747 original lots covering 23,869 acres were surveyed at a cost of \$16.49 per lot and \$3.97 per acre as against 5,040 lots covering 36,009 acres at a cost of \$16.94 per lot and \$2.37 per acre in 1345.

461 sub-divisions were surveyed.

25. *Demarcation.* 114,775 chains (1,435 miles) were measured at a cost of 33 cents per chain as against 104,406 chains (1,305 miles) at a cost of 36 cents per chain in 1345.

5,373 lots covering 22,481 acres were demarcated at a cost of \$6.67 per lot and \$1.59 per acre as against 4,628 lots (covering 12,499 acres) at a cost of \$8.18 per lot and \$3.03 per acre in 1345.

26. The Federated Malay States Topographical Department plane-tabled an area of about 206 square miles, and ran control traverses over an area of about 345 miles.

OFFICE OUTPUT.

27. 5,079 grants and 801 provisional titles were forwarded to the Land Office as against 4,778 and 1,483 in the previous year. Settlement tracings for 5,809 lots were forwarded to the Land Office as against 4,809 in the previous year.

A considerable amount of work was done in the preparation of plans for other departments.

PROGRESS.

28. Approximately 112,996 lots with an area of 666,850 acres have been located and mapped.

29. Requisitions for survey of 95,895 lots have been received from the Lands and Mines Departments. 48,572 lots have been surveyed and completed in the Office. 9,802 are in action.

30. Approximately 46,309 final and 28,543 provisional titles, mining leases and Reserve certificates have been prepared and forwarded for issue.

HEALTH.

31. The general health of the Staff showed a considerable improvement on the previous year. In the Office the percentage of medical leave dropped among Computers from 3.53 per cent to 1.81 per cent, and in the Field among Surveyors from 2.47 per cent to 1.30 per cent per hundred working days.

STAFF.

32. Mr. W. J. C. Stevens was in charge of the Department throughout the year. He was assisted by three European Assistant Superintendents, two European Surveyors, 30 Asiatic Surveyors, and 18 Assistant Surveyors, and the usual Office Staff.

33. Expenditure amounted to \$400,128, of which \$57,571 was spent in Topographical Survey work.

34. Revenue actually collected amounted to \$8,616. The surveys done would, at schedule rates, have amounted to \$180,823. In Kedah survey and demarcation fees are not charged separately but are merged in the premium.

VI.—AGRICULTURE.

35. The total area reported to be planted with padi was 174,236 acres compared with 172,026 acres in the previous year. The total yield is estimated at 53,236,162 gantangs (gallons), which is 3,037,851 gantangs less than in the previous year. The decrease is accounted for by a drought which occurred after planting had taken place, and by scarcity of cattle for ploughing owing to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

36. The trial ground of 3½ acres at Telok Kechai, Kuala Kedah Road, planted with eight species of padi produced 1349 gantangs in 1345 of which 449 gantangs were distributed to padi planters, and the remainder was sold. The crop for 1346 amounted to 1,360 gantangs.

37. Inspection of coconut plantations was carried out and permission given to fell 550 trees. 2,625 new trees were planted.

38. In the districts of Kulim and Bandar Bahru mouldy rot gave some trouble among small holdings, but the disease was well under control before the end of the year.

39. Cotton seed purchased from India was distributed among the peasants for experimental purposes, but the results were not promising. It was found that the leaves of the plants were seriously attacked by caterpillars (ulat).

40. An experiment was made in manuring tapioca plants on a small plot of land at Jabi, but it is too early to decide whether the experiment was successful.

There were 14 tapioca mills working in Kedah throughout the year.

41. Coffee was planted by Chinese on small areas of land in Bandar Bahru District, and at Guar Chempedak and Bukit Lada.

42. Total expenditure amounted to \$18,754.

43. Raja Mohamed, Agricultural Officer, was in charge of the Department throughout the year, and was assisted by two Assistant Agricultural Officers, both Kedah Malays, who had been trained in Kuala Lumpur.

VII.—MINES DEPARTMENT.

44. The total revenue collected from Mines in 1346 was \$65,696 as compared with \$81,393 in 1345 and an estimate of \$66,350. The main decrease was in export duty, and was due to the fall in the price of tin, which averaged \$128.50 as compared with \$150.75 in the previous year.

45. Expenditure amounted to \$8,952 against \$8,854 in 1345 and an estimate of \$9,227.

46. The export of mineral ores in tons was as follows:—

		1346	1345
Tin ore	..	395	401 (corrected figure)
Wolfram	..	31	96

47. The number of coolies employed at the end of the year was 1,119 as compared with 1,129 at the end of 1345—of this total 407 were employed on open cast, 266 on underground and 446 on hydraulicing.

48. A dredge is being erected at Karangan, and is expected to commence work soon.

49. The area alienated for mining stood at the end of the year at 6,199 acres.

50. Twelve mining applications were received, of which two were approved and ten refused.

51. Fifteen applications for prospecting licences were received, of which twelve were refused or withdrawn. No prospecting licence issued during the year.

52. Mr. H. C. Eckhardt was Superintendent of Mines throughout the year.

VIII.—FORESTS.

RESERVES.

53. Draft preliminary notifications to reserve fourteen areas on the mainland, having a total area of 363,000 acres were in the hands of the Director of Lands at the close of the year. The reservation of these areas has been approved by the State Council at various times during the past twenty years, but constitution under the provisions of the Forests Enactment (No. 9 of 1345) is now necessary.

54. The water catchment areas of all townships with the exception of Kulim are included in reserves and a ruling was issued that no timber exploitation should be carried out in such areas.

55. Ulu Muda and Padang Trap reserves approved by the State Council have still to be demarcated, but it is estimated that the total area on the mainland approved as reserved forest is about 592,000 acres or 31 per cent. Most of this area is at present of little use, only one-fifth being within three miles of road, railway or navigable river.

On the Langkawi group of islands 61,900 acres approximately have been approved as reserved forest.

EXPLOITATION.

56. The steady demand for timber which continued throughout 1345 was not maintained, and at the close of the year dealers had large stocks in hand. The out-turn of timber and firewood amounted to 27,328 and 14,995 tons respectively as against 33,000 and 38,000 in the previous year. The out-turn of charcoal amounted to 18,836 tons, showing an increase of 1,836 tons. Owing to a fall in the price of rubber and the subsequent cutting down of expenses and possibly also the increasing use of reinforced concrete in building operation, there was little demand for timber at the end of the year.

57. In Langkawi it was found that mangrove forests were being over exploited, licences were cancelled and the output fell from 18,016 to 1,064 tons.

58. Revenue collected amounted to \$118,078 and expenditure to \$59,071, the corresponding figures in 1345 were \$139,146 and \$62,476.

59. Mr. W. M. E. Martin was in charge of the Department till 10th Rejab, 1346 (3rd January, 1928) when he was relieved by Mr. A. B. S. Boswell.

IX.—COURTS.

60. The Court of Appeal sat twice during the year and disposed of 8 civil appeals and 4 criminal appeals.

61. The First Division of the High Court decided 68 civil and 30 criminal appeals, and in its original jurisdiction dealt with 9 civil and 8 criminal cases.

62. The Second Division Court decided 331 civil and 90 criminal cases, and 119 civil and 59 criminal appeals.

63. Appendix 'E' shows the number of cases heard in the Magistrates' and District Office Courts during the year.

64. Mr. Franklyn Robinson acted as First Division Judge till 3rd Rejab (27th December, 1927) when Mr. W. H. Dinsmore resumed the duties of his appointment on his return from leave. Tuan Syed Mansur Aljafree and Tunku Mansur carried out the duties of Chief Malay Judge and Second Malay Judge respectively throughout the year.

65. 1,194 cases were decided in the Sharaiah Courts, and 85 were carried over to 1347.

The Sharaiah Courts, of which there are eleven in the State, consist of a Kathi or Assistant Kathi, and hear and determine suits between Mohammedans concerning marriage, divorce and maintenance.

X.—POLICE.

66. The strength of the Force at the end of the year was 758, consisting of 6 Europeans, 652 Malays, 68 Sikhs, 18 Chinese, 13 Indians and 1 Siamese. 70 Malay recruits and 3 Sikh recruits were enlisted during the year. No difficulty was experienced in getting Malay recruits who could read and write.

67. Discipline was satisfactory. 567 offences were proved and dealt with as compared with 836 in the previous year.

The health of the Force was good.

68. Firearms registered numbered 5,326 against 5,080 in the previous year.

69. The registration of vehicles was carried out by the Department—2,537 motor vehicles were registered as compared with 2,364 in the previous year.

70. 34 prosecutions were instituted by the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

71. 12 cases of murder were reported and investigated against 19 in the previous year—of these 5 were undiscovered. There were 3 reports of culpable homicide, all discovered, and 4 reports of offence of causing death by a rash act, of which three were admitted and discovered.

12 gang robberies and 1 gang robbery with murder were reported, a decrease of 5 compared with 1345—of these only three were discovered. There were 18 robberies against 16 in the previous year, of these ten were discovered. 85 reports of illicit gaming were made and 84 were discovered.

On the whole the year's record as regards crime is satisfactory, but discovery in case of gang robberies is poor. Most of the gang robberies were committed in North Kedah.

72. The revenue collected by the Department from all sources amounted to \$136,183 which is \$15,186 less than in the previous year. This total includes \$114,858 for registration of vehicles, which appears under Sanitary Board revenue, and \$3,377 for licences, Dogs and Pig-styes, which appears under the Heading "Licences".

73. Expenditure amounted to \$500,376 as compared with \$482,842 in the previous year, and an estimate, including supplementary provisions, of \$532,292.

74. Mr. W. E. Speers was in charge of the Department throughout the year.

XI.—PRISONS.

75. There are three prisons in Kedah, at Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim. Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment for one year or more are sent to Alor Star.

76. Convicted prisoners in the State prisons were as under:—

		Alor Star	Sungei Patani	Kulim
Prisoners on 1-1-46	...	311	53	30
Admitted during 1346	...	375	285	182
TOTAL	...	686	338	212
Discharged during 1346	...	446	288	184
Remaining at end of 1346	...	240	50	28

77. The various nationalities of new admissions were as shown below:—

			Alor Star	Sungei Patani	Kulim
Malays	...	...	194	80	29
Chinese	...	...	127	94	91
Indians	...	...	33	93	87
Siamese	...	...	19	12	...
Others	...	...	2	6	5

78. The average daily prison population for the past three years was:—

				Alor Star	Sungei Patani	Kulim
1344	...	...	...	363	50	28
1345	...	...	...	330	50.42	29.55
1346	...	...	...	295	47.92	32.29

79. Prisoners' offences against prison discipline were as follows:—

				Alor Star	Sungei Patani	Kulim
1344	...	...	...	199	13	7
1345	...	...	...	163	12	6
1346	...	...	...	149	33	3

80. There were four executions during the year.

81. The health for the year was satisfactory. In Alor Star Prison Hospital the daily average number of sick was 4.91 as compared with 7.31 and 7.68 for the two previous years. The prevalence of "Hook Worm" among prisoners admitted to the prisons is recorded, but steps are being taken to examine and treat all prisoners on admission.

82. In Alor Star Prison about half of the prisoners are employed in carpentry, rotan work, dhobi-work, making up of prison clothing and padi pounding, the remainder are employed under adequate supervision on grass cutting, vegetable gardening and other outside work. At Sungei Patani and Kulim the prisoners are employed mainly in grass cutting and gardening.

83. The revenue of the Department amounted to \$21,735 as compared with \$15,343 in the previous year. A large proportion of this increase is accounted for by the sale of rice to the Medical Department.

The value of work done free by the Department, *e.g.* grass cutting, washing of clothes and *toti* work was considerable.

84. The total expenditure for the year amounted to \$113,251 as compared with \$123,776 in the previous year.

85. The Vagrants' Camp was opened in the month of Safar (August) and was placed in charge of the Superintendent of Prisons.

The total admission for the year was 108, and 28 remained at the end of the year. The main form of employment was vegetable gardening.

The expenditure for the year was \$8,261.

86. Mr. S. E. Dennys was in charge of the Department till 12th February, 1928 (20th Shaaban, 1346) when he went on leave, his place being taken by Mr. H. Fraser. The Superintendent was assisted by a European Chief Gaoler seconded from the Federated Malay States Prisons Department.

XII.—MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

87. Government Hospitals were maintained at Alor Star, Sungei Patani, Kulim, Kuala Ketil, Serdang, Bandar Bharu, Baling and Langkawi. 24,432 in-patients were treated as compared with 21,472 in the previous year. The percentage of deaths was 8.13 as compared with 8.57, and excluding deaths which occurred within 48 hours of admission was 5.64.

88. Out-door Dispensaries were maintained at Alor Star Town, Changloon, Yen, Sik, Padang Serai and Mahang, and 21,354 cases were treated. Motor Ambulance Dispensaries were maintained at Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim, and 22,284 cases were treated. The Lady Medical Officer paid weekly visits to several out-lying villages in North Kedah to attend to women and children.

The Dispensary at Kota Kuala Muda was closed down at the end of 1345, and the Dispensaries at Padang Serai and Mahang at the beginning of 1346. These places are now visited regularly by Travelling Dispensaries.

89. Admissions for Malaria amounted to 10,016 as compared with 7,984 in the previous year. The periodic rise in Malaria cases occurred earlier, and lasted longer than previously, April till July is the actual period. There was an increase in the number of admissions for Pneumonia and Ankylostomiasis.

90. The numbers treated for Dysentery shows a satisfactory decrease: Amoebic Dysentery, 431 cases with 113 deaths as compared with 759 cases and 203 deaths in the previous year, and Bacillary Dysentery, 435 cases with 147 deaths against 485 cases with 116 deaths in 1345.

91. Anti-rabic treatment was available at Alor Star Hospital. During the year 36 cases were admitted for dog-bite, of these 25 were found to have been bitten by rabid dogs and received anti-rabic serum injections. The treatment was successful in all cases.

92. Maternity and Child welfare work was carried on by the Lady Medical Officer at the Alor Star Hospital and Town Dispensary, and visits were paid to patients' houses.

93. 172 Kedah patients were under treatment at Tanjong Rambutan Mental Hospital at the end of the year as compared with 149 patients at the end of the previous year.

94. The number of lepers undergoing treatment was 69 at Pulau Jerejak and 9 at Pangkor Laut, and 5 were temporarily detained pending transfer in Kedah Hospitals, showing an excess of 5 over the previous year's figures.

95. *Infectious Diseases.* Four cases of Cholera were recorded in the first week of the year, but these were part of the small epidemic which was reported on in 1345. Three cases of small-pox were reported, two at Sungei Kechil Ulu, and one at Kodiang. Three cases of Tropical Typhus were reported for the first time in Kedah. Two of these were European Assistants on a rubber estate in South Kedah, and the other case came from Yen village. Serological tests carried out by the Medical Research Institute, Kuala Lumpur, confirmed the diagnosis.

96. *Vital Statistics.* The population of the State is estimated to be 399,864. On this figure the birth rate was 32.68 per mille and the death rate 28.57.

97. Anti-Malarial work was carried out in the Sanitary Board areas of Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim.

98. On most of the large estates anti-malarial work is efficiently carried out, but on the smaller estates there is room for much improvement, and it is hoped that the recently appointed Estates Health Board will effect an improvement in the health conditions of these estates.

99. The revenue collected by the Department was \$113,282 as compared with \$127,348 in the previous year. The chief reason for this decrease is the large number of Tamil coolies admitted as paupers.

100. The expenditure of the medical branch of the Department was \$408,223 as compared with \$361,292 in the previous year. The expenditure on the Health branch of the Department was \$30,726 as compared with \$27,728.

101. Dr. D. Bridges, State Surgeon, was in charge of the Department throughout the year, and his senior staff consisted of the Health Officer, three Medical Officers and a Lady Medical Officer.

102. I regret to have to record the death of Dr. C. J. S. Nicholas, Assistant Medical Officer, which occurred on 6th Ramthan, 1346 (27th February, 1928). Dr. Nicholas was in charge of the Alor Star Hospital since his appointment on 19th Jemadialakhir, 1336 (2nd April, 1918) till his death and proved himself to be an able and trustworthy officer.

XIII.—VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

103. Foot and Mouth Disease which was epidemic in Kota Star and Kubang Pasu districts at the close of the preceding year subsequently spread to Padang Trap and Kuala Muda districts. This disease was stamped out in the middle of Rabialakhir (early October, 1927) and all local quarantine restrictions were removed at the beginning of the following month. 307 cattle and buffaloes were affected by the disease of which one died.

104. Rabies continued in sporadic form in Central and South Kedah—there were 4 cases in Central, and 3 in South, Kedah. Quarantine restrictions and the muzzling order continued in force throughout the year in the affected districts. 105 dogs were inoculated with anti-rabic vaccine of which one subsequently died of rabies. 8,456 dogs were destroyed during the year.

105. Importation of cattle, sheep, goats and dogs from Siam was prohibited except through the Padang Besar Quarantine Station or under special permit through the Bukit Kayu Hitam Quarantine Yards. 377 buffaloes and 77 cattle were imported as compared with 27 buffaloes and 150 cattle in 1345. 14,532 swine were exported as against 10,048 in the previous year. 532 buffaloes and 473 cattle were exported as compared with 1,687 buffaloes and 788 cattle in 1345.

106. An additional Veterinary Inspector was appointed for Kuala Muda and Baling districts, and was stationed at Sungei Patani. Veterinary Inspectors are also stationed at Alor Star and Kulim.

The Padang Besar Quarantine Station, which is situated on the Perlis-Siam frontier and is the joint property of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States, Kedah and Perlis Governments is administered by this Department under the general guidance of an Advisory Committee consisting of the State Veterinary Surgeon, Kedah, and the Government Veterinary Surgeons, Penang and South Perak. 1,728 buffaloes, 257 cattle, 5 goats, 50,678 swine and 1 dog passed through the station during the year. The revenue and expenditure were \$6,117.60 and \$6,216.68 respectively as compared with \$6,398.10 and \$5,068.59 in the previous year.

107. Mr. J. J. Fleury was State Veterinary Surgeon throughout the year.

XIV.—EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

108. Two English Schools were maintained at Alor Star and Sungei Patani. At Alor Star there were 521 names on the roll on the last day of the year as against 479 at the end of the previous year. The proportion was 312 Malays and 209 others as against 263 Malays and 216 others. The proportionate increase of Malays was part of a deliberate policy, an additional class being created for Malays newly admitted from the Vernacular Schools. At Sungei Patani there were 174 names on the roll as against 161 at the end of the previous year, of this number 51 were Malays.

The percentage of attendance at Alor Star was 94.9 and at Sungei Patani 93.

109. There were 89 scholars at the end of the year as against 70 in the previous year.

110. In the Cambridge examinations two passes were recorded in the School Certificate and 20 in the Junior Cambridge as compared with 5 and 10 in the previous year. Of the boys who left school during the year 32 obtained appointments in the Government Service, and the two Chinese boys selected after the 1926 examination for training at the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, commenced their course. One Malay boy who received his education at Sungei Patani School was sent to England to continue his studies.

111. The Boy Scouts increased in number and efficiency. A party of 140 Scouts from the School attended a five days' camp at Sungei Patani, and 32 picked Scouts represented Kedah at the All-Malaya Camp in

Penang from August 8th—16th. The Scouts appeared on ceremonial occasions and gave a special display before His Excellency the High Commissioner in November, 1927.

VERNACULAR EDUCATION.

112. Vernacular Schools numbered 76 at the end of the year, including 3 girls' schools, as against 72 at the end of the previous year.

113. Annual examinations were held in 69 Schools, of which 12 were marked excellent, 17 very good, 30 good, 8 fair and 2 bad.

Gardening is taught at 64 of the Schools, and carpentry at ten of the bigger Schools, and basketry at 28 Schools.

114. The following table shows the number of boys examined in each standard in the last four years:—

Year.	Schools.	Std. I.	Std. II.	Std. III.	Std. IV.	Total.
1343	64	1,465	1,165	836	931	4,397
1344	68	1,562	1,243	961	1,030	4,796
1345	68	1,418	1,354	991	1,154	4,917
1346	69	1,525	1,287	1,070	1,266	5,148

The boys in Standard O, the preparatory class, are not examined.

115. Miss M. C. Waddell, Headmistress Malay Girls' School, Kampong Bharu, returned from leave to Europe about the middle of the year. During her absence Che Tom binti Dato' Setia was in charge of the School.

116. I regret to have to record the death of Mr. E. A. G. Stuart who died in Penang Hospital on 10th Rabialakhir (7th October, 1927) after several weeks' illness. Mr. Stuart had been Superintendent of Education for 12 years, and during eleven of these years he carried out the duties of Head Master, Government English School, Alor Star, in addition. Mr. Stuart has laid the foundations of the education system in Kedah on a very sound basis. His whole heart was in his work, and he won the affection and respect of his pupils and colleagues. Mr. Stuart bequeathed his books to the Government English School, Alor Star, and a fund is being raised among his friends, to which the Government will contribute, to erect a School Library.

XV.—LABOUR.

117. As returns are prepared in accordance with the English calendar, the statistics contained in this report cover the period 1st July, 1927, to 30th June, 1928 (*i.e.*, 1st Moharram, 1346 to 11th Moharram, 1347).

118. The total number of labourers employed at the end of the year was 48,614 as against 65,053 in the previous year. South Indians decreased by 20 per cent, Chinese by 42 per cent and Malay and Javanese by 25 per cent.

119. During the year 9,596 State-aided Indian immigrants arrived in Kedah, 7,851 adults and 1,745 minors as compared with 18,376 adults and 3,769 minors in 1345 and 12,898 adults and 2,540 minors in 1344. 6,907 labourers were recruited by licensed Kanganies and 2,689 were voluntary emigrants from India.

120. Local engagements of South Indians, Chinese and Malays amounted to 40,526, 7,633 and 7,133 respectively as compared with 37,180, 10,364 and 10,963 in 1345.

121. Wages remained at same rates as in the previous year; 45-50 cents for men and 35 to 40 cents for women field workers. The minimum wages paid by Government Departments since 1st January, 1928 (8th Rejab, 1346) are 50 cents for men and 40 cents for women.

Cost of living shows little or no change.

122. The death rate among all labourers was 17.78 per mille as compared with 14.27 in the previous year. Among Indian labourers it was 22.48 as against 20.41.

The increase in the death rate was in some measure due to a wave of pneumonia and to a higher mortality from ankylostomiasis, while Malaria accounted for more deaths than in 1345.

123. The Health Board Enactment was passed during the year and a Board was appointed and commenced preliminary work.

124. 207 complaints were registered during the year, of these 116 were complaints of non-payment of wages on due date, mostly against petty employers: almost all of these cases were settled departmentally.

Periodical visits to estates were paid by the Protector of Labour and Labour Inspector, and thirty seven orders were issued under the Labour Code.

125. There were 61 Tamil Vernacular Schools on estates in Kedah, of which only two were admitted to the privileges of the Tamil Estate School Code.

126. Captain N. Jones, M.C., was Protector of Labour throughout the year.

XVI.—CHINESE PROTECTORATE.

127. Seven societies were registered and eight were exempted from registration during the year. One society was closed by order of the State Council on the recommendation of the Protector of Chinese for allowing its premises to be used as a common gaming house.

128. There were three prosecutions early in the year under the Societies Enactment, eighteen Chinese being convicted of acting as members of an unlawful (Triad) Society, and one being convicted of assisting in the management. One Chinese was convicted of being in possession of Triad Society documents. Five Chinese were banished on the recommendation of the Protector of Chinese for assisting in the management of an unlawful society. As a result of this and also of banishments recommended by the Police Department, secret societies gave no further trouble.

129. The usual work of the supervision of Chinese women and girls was carried out. In all 28 women and girls were admitted to the Home during the year, of whom seven remained in the Home at the end of the year and one is being maintained in the *Po Leung Kuk*, Penang. Three girls were married from the Home.

130. 87 enquiries under section 72 of the Labour Enactment concerning wages and conditions of employment were settled.

131. The Protector of Chinese was an Assistant Superintendent of Monopolies and Customs and rendered general assistance to that Department.

132. Mr. G. R. Sykes was Protector of Chinese throughout the year.

XVII.—SANITARY BOARDS.

133. Every district in the State has a Sanitary Board with the exception of Padang Trap district with Head-quarters at Kuala Nerang, and a Sanitary Board is now being arranged for this district.

134. The revenue collected by the Kota Star Board amounted to \$62,019, as compared with \$58,786 in the previous year—a further sum of \$32,516 on account of Motor Car registration and Drivers' Licences was collected by the Police, and credited to Sanitary Board Revenue under "Registration of Vehicles".

135. Expenditure amounted to \$61,794, as compared with \$65,710 in the previous year.

136. Six new shop houses were completed in Alor Star Town, and plans for 10 first-class shop houses in Jalan Raja were passed.

137. Improvement schemes for areas lying between Lorong Kechil and Jalan Penjara Lama, and between Jalan Pekan Melayu and Jalan Pekan China were approved by the Government, and proceedings were commenced for acquisition of the land.

138. The filling and metalling of a portion of the 66 foot road on the North side of Jalan Langgar, and the necessary side roads and lanes to give access to ten shop lots sold in 1344, were well in hand at the end of the year.

139. The Kuala Muda Sanitary Board collected a total revenue of \$57,827 as compared with \$56,708 in the previous year. Expenditure amounted to \$35,722 as against \$34,629.

140. Plans were passed for 29 shop houses in Sungei Patani and 14 shop houses in Gurun Village. 27 shop houses and a new distillery were completed in Sungei Patani.

141. The sanitation of the village of Gurun, Bedong, Semiling, Sungei Lalang and Kota Kuala Muda was controlled by the Board and building was controlled at Tikam Batu Village.

142. A water supply for Gurun was almost ready at the end of the year.

143. Kulim District Sanitary Board collected revenue amounting to \$35,579 as compared with \$37,599 in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to \$31,533 as compared with \$23,363 in 1345.

144. Sanitation at Kulim, Lunas, Padang Serai and Junjong and building at Sungei Karangan were controlled by the Board.

145. The Baling District Sanitary Board collected \$4,604 revenue and spent \$4,758. The Baling Town water supply was completed before the end of the year.

146. Kubang Pasu, Bandar Bharu, Yen and Langkawi districts also have Sanitary Boards.

XVIII.—MONOPOLIES AND CUSTOMS.

147. The total revenue collected, exclusive of Chandu Monopoly, amounted to \$2,925,265 as compared with \$3,597,764 in the previous year.

The main differences in amounts of duty collected in 1345 and 1346 are shown below:—

Export Duties				1346	1315
				\$	\$
Fish	...	...	...	59,701	85,826
Rice and Padi	...	...	...	173,702	156,513
Rubber	...	...	...	959,300	1,561,590
Tapioca	...	...	...	40,217	58,910
Tin	...	...	...	60,583	74,453

Import Duties				1346	1345
				\$	\$
Liquor ...	...	...	...	285,092	334,663
Tobacco	...	...	...	723,370	731,452
Petroleum	...	...	...	141,650	114,377

148. Import duty on liquors and tobacco was collected on behalf of the Government by the Assistant Superintendent, Government Monopolies, Straits Settlements, in Penang.

149. Out of 54 cases taken to Court by the Customs Department, twelve were for offences in connection with rubber: eleven convictions were recorded with fines amounting to \$19,350 and confiscation of 70 pikuls of rubber.

OPIMUM MONOPOLY.

150. The amount realised on sales of chandu (prepared opium) was \$2,664,380. The price paid to the Straits Government for this chandu was \$503,125.

The revenue realised was \$573,148 less than in the previous year.

151. The amount of chandu sold amounted to 200,278 tahils as compared with 242,877 tahils in the previous year.

One tahl equals one and one-third ounce avoirdupois.

152. No licences were issued for smoking saloons, but one Government Smoking Saloon was opened at the beginning of the year and maintained at each of the three most important towns in the State, Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim. Retail sale of chandu was as in the previous year conducted by the Department.

EXCISE.

153. Three Licensing Boards were appointed by the State Council to control the issue or renewal of liquor-shop and toddy-shop licences in North Kedah, Central Kedah and South Kedah respectively.

The system of inviting tenders for the right to open public toddy-shops has been abandoned, and the Boards now appoint licensees and fix the amount of licence fee annually.

154. Two licences were granted for Distilleries, one at Sungei Patani and one at Kulim. New brick buildings were erected and are now in use.

155. Tunku Kassim was in charge of the Department, except for two months when he was on leave, and Tunku Mohamed, Auditor General, acted for him.

XIX.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

156. A comparison of the business done during the past three years is as follows:—

	1344	1345	1346
	\$	\$	\$
Telegrams received, forwarded and transmitted ...	159,445	148,798	135,499
Letters, papers and parcels posted and delivered...	2,665,887	3,346,887	3,429,559
Value of Money Order transactions ...	535,789	720,550	747,706
Saving Bank Deposits ...	19,040	27,696	21,519

157. The revenue collected, including revenue from telegrams and telephone, amounted to \$126,071 as against \$151,606 in 1345 and \$103,520 in 1344.

158. The expenditure amounted to \$366,229 made up of personal emoluments \$117,637, annually recurrent \$20,535 and special expenditure on remodelling telephone service \$228,057.

159. A large amount of material was purchased from England and work was commenced on new telephone trunk line along the railway reserve from Alor Star to the Colony boundary.

160. Mr. S. Asirvadam, Superintendent Posts and Telegraphs, who retired at the end of Safar had during his 19 years of service been in charge of Postal and Telegraph and Telephone work. On his retirement the Senior Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Penang, with the permission of the Secretary for Postal Affairs, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, undertook the general supervision of Telegraph and telephone work in Kedah pending the appointment of a Telegraph Engineer for Kedah. Arrangements were made for sending additional Malay and Chinese youths to undergo training in Telegraph and telephone work in Kuala Lumpur.

Che Mohamed Arshad, Assistant Superintendent, was appointed to act as Superintendent, Posts and Telegraphs.

XX.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

161. The total estimated expenditure including revotes and special warrants amounted to \$3,628,214.

The actual expenditure was \$2,442,482.

The unexpended total is accounted for as follows:—

			\$
(a) Works deferred	..	..	87,400
(b) Unexpended balances on works in progress at end of 1346	..	..	975,903
(c) Savings on Estimates	..	..	122,429
			\$1,185,732

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

ROADS, STREETS, BRIDGES.

162. 365.33 miles of metalled roads were upkept during the year at an average cost of \$1,658.55 per mile as compared with \$1,739.90 in the previous year. 112 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of unmetalled roads were upkept at a cost of \$23,783.

CANALS.

163. 246 miles of canals were maintained including 33 miles of irrigation channels in Langkawi.

BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

164. The gross estimated value of buildings was \$4,582,250. These buildings were maintained at a cost of \$111,142 being 2.57 per cent of their value. 48 buildings were added during the year at a cost of \$192,791.

\$56,559 was spent on additions and improvements to Government buildings.

EXTRAORDINARY SERVICES.

ROADS, STREETS, BRIDGES.

165. The Tunjang Station approach road from the Perlis road, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles long, was completed.

One mile of the Weng-Sok Road was metalled and timber bridges were completed to the 7th mile.

The widening and metalling of the main road from Kota Sarang Semut to Gua Chempadak were completed and 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of road were widened and metalled between Lunas and Titi Karangan.

The deviation of the Kelang Lama-Kelang Bahru road between miles 2 and 7 was completed as far as 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

11 reinforced concrete bridges and 32 culverts were constructed to replace timber bridges.

CANALS.

166. In the Southern area, the Sungei Sedaka Canal and feeders were completed except for a few minor details. The Sungei Limau Canal and feeders were also completed. The Sungei Daun Canal was put in hand during the year and four miles of canal have been widened, deepened and graded. These three canals with the Sungei Dulang which was completed prior to 1346 serve an area of about 41,000 relongs.

In the Northern area, progress was made on the Sungei Jitra, Alor Changileh Scheme, the New Canal, Lanah Buloh Canal and the Ayer Itam Canal.

167. Reconnaissance work was confined to the Kuala Muda area. The survey of the area between Sungei Patani and Kuala Muda is well in hand and work on the area between the Sungei Merbok and Kedah Peak is practically complete.

BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

168. Four permanent Vernacular Schools, four sets of cooly lines, two out-station Post Offices, 3 sets of quarters for Customs Out-door Officers, a new Rest House at Kulim and various Hospital buildings were completed.

The Alor Star Post Office and Human Quarantine Station, Padang Besar, were nearing completion, and progress was made on the Office Dalam, Alor Star, Istana, Anak Bukit Gardens, Police Offices, Sungei Patani, and 4 European Officers' quarters at Alor Star and Hospital buildings.

WATER SUPPLIES.

169. The pipe line to Kota Sarang Semut from Sala was completed and water laid on.

Pipes were purchased for the water supply for Gurun village.

The service reservoir at Baling was completed and a 4 inch main laid to the town.

No work was done with regard to investigations for increasing the Alor Star water supply beyond taking gaugings of the Sungei Wang Prah pending the completion of the Topographical Survey of the Bukit Perangin area.

STAFF.

170. Mr. W. J. Smith acted as State Engineer till 2nd Zulkaedah (22nd April) when he was relieved by Major G. H. Richards who is the substantive holder of the appointment.

XXI.—PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

171. Owing to the new Salary Scheme for Subordinates there were fewer changes of personnel during the year, and better work was turned out.

172. It is not at present possible to dispense altogether with outside help for printing Government publications. New machines are, however, now on order, and it is hoped that when they have been installed the Department will be able to cope with all Government orders.

173. The Government Gazette is now published monthly, but it is anticipated that before the end of 1347 it will be possible to publish a fortnightly issue.

174. The total expenditure of the Department amounted to \$60,685 and revenue to \$1,964.

XXII.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES DEPARTMENT.

175. During the year nineteen rural credit societies operated, an increase of one over the previous year; of these only five were registered, but at the end of the year seven more were approved for registration. There were three credit and loan societies as in the previous year, and of these only one was registered.

176. Mr. Cavendish, Director of Co-operation, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, visited Kedah in the month of Rejab (January, 1928) and attended meetings of twelve societies and was pleased with the progress that had been made since his last visit.

177. The total sum paid in by members of societies up to the end of 1346 amounted to \$14,869, and loans had been granted during 1345 and 1346 to a total of \$32,567.

178. One of the rural credit societies opened an account with the local Bank.

179. The co-operative societies are, I think, making steady progress. Several of the District Officers have presided at meetings and shown their sympathy with the movement.

180. Che Abdulrahman bin Haji Samaudin was in charge of the Department throughout the year. An Assistant Registrar was appointed during the year.

XXIII.—MARINE.

181. The revenue collected under all headings amounted to \$38,507 as compared with \$36,240 in the previous year.

182. The establishment of the Department was increased by the appointment of an Officer in charge of Fisheries in Kuala Muda district and Inspector of Fisheries at Langkawi. The former Officer took over the duties of boat registration formerly carried out by the Police in Bandar Bharu district and the District Officer at Baling.

183. The expenditure of the Department amounted to \$34,751, including the maintenance of light-houses and Motor Launches "Langkawi" and "Lady Nell" and the work of recording Trade Statistics.

184. The fishing industry of which the chief centres are Kuala Kedah and Kuala Merbok had a prosperous year.

185. Inche Ismail bin Haji Jaafar, Harbour Master, was in charge of the Department throughout the year.

XXIV.—TRADE.

186. The gross value of exports for the year was \$28,509,759 and of imports \$9,280,175. The corresponding figures for the previous year were \$43,090,007 and \$10,203,306. The following is a summary of the Import and Export returns for the three past years:—

				Import.	Export.
A. Live Animals, food, drinks, tobacco	1344	5,550,386	3,528,636		
	1345	5,940,328	6,997,258		
	1346	5,271,997	6,315,361		
B. Raw materials	1344	576,423	46,674,646		
	1345	451,073	35,914,404		
	1346	456,272	21,731,261		
C. Totally or mainly manu- factured articles	1344	4,310,122	366,387		
	1345	3,811,925	387,345		
	1346	3,548,906	463,137		

187. The total value of tobacco and cigarettes imported was \$1,542,888, of sugar \$586,972, of piece goods \$820,677 and of petroleum \$622,404. All these items show a decrease below the previous year's figures except "Tobacco and Cigarettes".

188. The value of the principal exports for the past three years is as under:—

			1344	1345	1346
			\$	\$	\$
Rubber	...	...	45,390,867	31,487,489	20,378,183
Padi and Rice	...	...	940,225	2,568,639	2,951,666
Fish	...	...	325,258	601,911	431,241
Tapioca	...	...	839,018	1,754,700	121,489
Tin Ore	...	...	682,342	477,999	572,278

XXV.—GENERAL.

189. His Excellency the High Commissioner, Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G., visited Kedah in Jemadialakhir (December) for a few days. Accompanied by His Highness the Regent His Excellency made a tour of the principal roads of the State, and visited Sungei Patani, Kulim and Baling, and then proceeded to Langkawi. His Excellency

visited the principal Government institutions in the State and met and conversed with many of the senior official and unofficial members of the local community.

190. The Right Honourable Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited Kedah on 5th April (14th Shawal), and met His Highness the Regent and several other senior Malay Officers. He visited the Government English School, and distributed prizes at the first formal prize-giving, which had been held at the School.

191. His Highness the Regent proceeded to England on May 5th (15th Zulkaidah) on six months' leave. The main purpose of His Highness' journey was to meet his sons, two of whom were at Sandhurst, and to see how the Kedah students in England were progressing in their studies.

During the absence of His Highness the Regent, His Highness Tunku Mahmud, Vice President of the State Council, acted as Regent.

192. Mr. T. W. Clayton, British Adviser, proceeded on leave on 5th November (10th Jemadialawal).

Mr. B. W. Elles acted as British Adviser till 23rd Shawal (April 14th) when he went on leave, and was relieved by Mr. H. C. Eckhardt, who acted till the end of the year.

T. W. CLAYTON,
British Adviser, Kedah.

Alor Star, 5th November, 1928.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th Zulhijjah, 1346 (19-6-28).

Liabilities.		₹	Assets.		₹
Deposits	... ..	...	Cash	...	412,461
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve	...	...	Advances	...	19,453
Investments Depreciation Reserve	...	...	Cash-in-transit	...	35,165
Excess of Assets	...	...	Imprests	...	23,225
			Investments	...	6,775,715
			Loans	...	59,983
			Suspense Account	...	78,016
			Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve	...	4,222,500
			Investments Depreciation Reserve	...	119,560
TOTAL	...	11,746,078	TOTAL	...	11,746,078

APPENDIX B.

Statement of Revenue for each year from A.H. 1342—1346 (A.D. 1924—1928).

Heads of Revenue.		A. H. 1342 (A. D. 1924)	A. H. 1343 (A. D. 1925)	A. H. 1344 (A. D. 1926)	A. H. 1345 (A. D. 1927)	A. H. 1346 (A. D. 1928)
		₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
1. Marine	...	23,175	23,696	28,157	31,679	32,719
2. Customs	...	1,518,741	1,716,006	3,787,061	3,279,108	2,604,423
3. Opium Monopoly	...	1,892,740	1,993,843	2,441,088	2,632,863	2,156,255
4. Farms and Licences	...	235,905	280,139	336,400	432,451	467,096
5. Court Fees etc...	...	126,224	160,330	168,419	158,255	212,432
6. Police	...	17,369	29,943	30,543	27,800	24,889
7. Education	...	9,982	11,366	12,242	12,042	14,608
8. Veterinary	...	9,985	1,556	3,860	4,008	4,207
9. Reimbursements	...	45,406	56,397	76,388	155,342	144,101
10. Posts and Telegraphs	...	80,399	74,023	103,520	151,607	126,071
11. Lands	...	763,316	832,014	972,802	857,322	847,725
12. Forests	...	74,274	65,738	102,586	135,614	118,078
13. Mines	...	8,923	7,160	9,977	6,796	4,898
14. Interests	...	249,837	248,265	359,672	291,076	371,765
15. Sanitary Boards	...	177,821	197,118	249,930	282,915	280,136
16. Miscellaneous	...	41,680	34,932	61,063	82,829	57,825
17. Land Sales	...	223,788	237,622	415,779	446,722	255,279
Total		5,499,564	5,970,148	9,179,487	8,988,429	7,722,507

Statement of Expenditure for each year from 1342 to 1346 (A. D. 1924—1928).

Statement of Expenditure for 1924-25						
Heads of Service.		A. H. 1342 (A. D. 1924)	A. H. 1343 (A. D. 1925)	A. H. 1344 (A. D. 1926)	A. H. 1345 (A. D. 1927)	A. H. 1346 (A. D. 1928)
		₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
1.	Charges on account of the Public Debt	59,682	29,371	...	...	...
2.	Ruling House Allowances, Pensions, etc.	245,432	265,698	256,103	288,127	360,146
3.	H. H. The Sultan's Office	141,087	139,176	139,816	139,898	143,545
4.	State Council	137,920	135,800	150,212	120,507	120,245

Land Revenue Returns for the year 1946.

DISTRICTS.	PREMIA ON ISSUE OF TITLES.			SURVEY FEES.			BOUNDARY MARKS.			LAND-TAX AND LAND-RENT.				
Bandar Bharu ...	10,000	6,907	89	2,500	1,824	00	3,000	4,382	55	101,000	109,009	04	8,009	04
Baling ...	1,500	1,386	35	1,500	2,532	50	2,000	2,007	00	139,150	131,258	65	7,891	35
Sik ...	150	157	63	1,000	455	75	500	606	35	10,460	12,818	85	2,358	85
TOTAL ...	74,900	80,788	61	25,600	21,632	25	42,700	40,211	49	1,228,580	1,105,670	31	122,909	69

APPENDIX D.

Land Revenue Returns for the year 1946.

DISTRICTS.	PREMIA ON ISSUE OF TITLES.		SURVEY FEES.		BOUNDARY MARKS.		LAND-TAX AND LAND-RENT.	
	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected
	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	c.
Kota Star	20,000	26,725	12,000	8,887	400	406	125,000	126,586
Kubang Pasu	15,000	3,352	5,000	2,683	200	152	63,000	61,793
Yen	1,000	3,280	2,000	2,629	50	88	20,500	20,719
Langkawi	500	1,855	100	149	10	8	12,000	12,096
Padang Trap	4,000	6,187	150	248	10	22	6,000	6,026
Kuala Muda	150,000	57,429	10,000	9,324	1,000	1,145	158,000	159,462
Kulim	60,000	28,750	5,000	3,206	1,000	755	185,000	186,240
Bandar Bharu	10,000	18,614	2,000	5,064	1,000	1,434	72,500	70,781
Baling	110,000	101,886	5,000	2,545	150	121	19,000	20,779
Sik	3,000	5,723	300	140	10	7	5,500	5,728
TOTAL	373,500	253,804	41,550	34,878	3,830	4,140	666,500	670,214
								25

APPENDIX D.—(Contd.)

Land Revenue Returns for the year 1846.—(Contd.)

DISTRICTS.	COMMISSION IN LIEU OF STAMP DUTY.			REGISTRATION FEES.			MISCELLANEOUS.			GRAND TOTAL.			SIGNS (+) OR (—)		
	Estimated	Collected	c.	Estimated	Collected	c.	Estimated	Collected	c.	Estimated	Collected	c.	Estimated	Collected	c.
	\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$	
Kota Star ...	15,000	16,833	47	7,000	6,452	50	12,000	10,208	50	191,400	196,099	67	+	4,699	67
Kubang Pasu ...	6,000	4,265	07	4,000	2,795	00	7,000	6,843	10	100,200	81,884	37	—	18,315	63
Yen ...	1,000	1,317	74	750	875	25	1,500	1,895	10	26,800	30,805	14	+	4,005	44
Langkawi ...	750	356	19	350	403	25	700	688	55	14,410	15,556	39	+	1,146	39
Padang Trap ...	500	428	38	500	789	50	1,000	1,066	63	12,160	14,769	36	+	2,609	36
Kuala Muda ...	20,000	19,128	77	4,000	3,387	75	10,000	7,697	25	353,000	257,575	81	—	95,424	19
Kulim ...	20,000	30,007	12	4,000	2,116	75	5,000	4,816	46	280,000	255,892	73	—	24,107	27
Bandar Bharu ...	10,000	6,907	89	2,500	1,824	00	3,000	4,382	55	101,000	109,009	04	+	8,009	04
Baling ...	1,500	1,386	35	1,500	2,332	50	2,000	2,007	00	139,150	131,258	65	—	7,891	35
Sik ...	150	157	63	1,000	455	75	500	606	35	10,460	12,818	85	+	2,358	85
TOTAL ...	74,900	80,788	61	25,600	21,632	25	42,700	40,211	49	1,228,580	1,105,670	31	—	122,909	69

APPENDIX E.

Return of cases tried in the Courts during the year 1946.

	CRIMINAL.				CIVIL.			
	No. of Cases from 1345	No. of Cases instituted	No. of Cases disposed of	No. of Cases pending at end of 1346	No. of Cases from 1345	No. of Cases instituted	No. of Cases disposed of	No. of Cases pending at end of 1346
MAGISTRATES' COURTS.								
Alor Star ...	67	1,076	1,129	14	114	822	823	113
Kota Sarang Semut ...	1	135	127	9	5	45	42	8
Langgar ...	11	96	96	11	4	19	21	2
Pendang ...	4	77	47	34	...	49	35	14
DISTRICT COURTS.								
Kubang Pasu ...	5	694	690	9	48	248	289	7
Padang Trap ...	14	154	161	7	2	36	35	3
Langkawi ...	1	138	136	3	2	70	65	7
Yen ...	...	147	147	...	1	64	59	6
Kota Kuala Muda ...	6	63	65	4	6	26	28	4
Semiling ...	4	30	34	...	...	6	3	3
Sungei Patani ...	71	926	946	51	42	399	362	79
Gurun ...	...	70	70	...	1	4	2	3
Baling ...	6	311	299	18	14	63	66	11
Kuala Ketil ...	5	140	140	5	9	32	37	4
Sik ...	30	100	126	4	4	9	7	6
Kulim ...	18	683	658	43	50	481	498	33
Padang Serai ...	2	59	61	...	1	80	78	3
Bandar Bharu ...	14	245	240	19	19	145	148	16
Serdang ...	...	23	23	...	...	18	18	...
TOTAL ...	259	5,167	5,195	231	322	2,616	2,616	322

APPENDIX F.

Annual Return of Rainfall from 1st December, 1927, to 31st July, 1928, A. D.

Months, 1927-1928.	Alor Star.	Langkawi.	Sungei Patani.	Baling.	Kuala Ketil.	Kulim.	Serdang.	Bandar Bharu.	Padang Besar.	Perlis.
	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.	In. C.
December	2.76	1.66	2.31	2.40	3.17	6.54	9.39	9.34	2.01	1.30
January	2.06	.78	2.91	.57	4.01	8.45	8.28	8.86	1.48	1.98
February	3.05	.84	5.48	1.65	3.24	.86	1.76	4.02	2.85	1.43
March	5.91	4.27	5.31	5.12	8.45	7.50	10.61	4.22	4.79	6.96
April	12.87	11.62	14.84	18.22	16.55	17.70	25.16	15.80	5.46	5.21
May	16.82	13.37	10.00	5.36	11.53	12.01	9.50	8.85	7.04	12.87
June	5.59	5.26	1.29	1.55	3.99	1.69	2.39	6.05	1.92	4.37
July	2.03	6.97	5.51	6.04	5.09	7.66	6.44	4.33	5.20	3.29
TOTAL	51.09	44.77	47.65	40.91	56.03	62.41	73.53	61.47	30.75	37.41

APPENDIX G.

*Annual Shade Temperature at Alor Star, for the period
from 1st December, 1927, to 31st July, 1928, A. D.*

		TEMPERATURE.			
MONTHS, 1927-1928.		Mean dry bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Range.
December	...	81·3	90·6	75·8	14·8
January	...	81·5	92·8	74·5	18·3
February	...	79·9	94·1	75·7	18·4
March	...	79·3	93·2	75·3	17·9
April	...	82·9	91·9	77·4	13·5
May	...	82·5	90·8	77·6	13·2
June	...	82·4	91·6	78·2	13·4
July	...	82·5	91·3	79·0	12·3

APPENDIX H.

Statistics of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Kedah.

48

Year.	Approximate number of articles passing through the Post.	NUMBER OF REGISTERED ARTICLES.		NUMBER OF PARCELS.		NUMBER OF INSURED ARTICLES (PARCELS AND LETTERS.)					
		Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Despatched.	Received.	Value.	Despatched.	Value.		
H.	A. D.						\$	c.	\$	c.	
1942	1924	2,308,020	45,583	45,882	10,389	3,362	62,374	80	334	29,996	83
1943	1925	2,295,735	47,546	49,417	13,092	4,753	51,994	70	331	32,555	78
1944	1926	2,540,642	52,920	52,693	14,744	5,088	59,588	39	412	40,606	95
1945	1927	3,184,974	62,651	59,140	16,833	5,889	80,183	82	511	57,253	43
1946	1928	3,276,169	65,117	65,494	17,072	5,707	58,562	41	512	54,788	21
Year.	Amount of Money Order and Postal Order Transactions.	Received.	EXPENDITURE.			APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF TELEGRAMS.			TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE LINES.		
			Personal Emoluments.	Annually Recurrent.	Special Expenditure.	Received.	Despatched.	Transit.	Line Mileage	Wire Mileage.	Number of Telephones.
H.	A. D.	\$	\$	\$	\$						
1942	1924	352,247 20	80,398 74	23,858 78	13,351 83	42,484	35,386	38,935	410	1,554	407
1943	1925	392,613 25	74,023 34	22,264 17	3,537 95	49,751	39,936	52,468	440	1,610	469
1944	1926	535,789 06	103,520 59	19,827 20	20,685 02	55,991	44,551	58,903	460	1,700	517
1945	1927	720,549 61	151,606 54	20,117 44	30,337 76	52,715	43,524	52,559	490	1,810	555
1946	1928	747,706 51	*126,071 25	20,535 39	+ 228,056 72	48,126	44,421	42,952	510	1,930	561

* Excludes \$9,590.21 Revenue Debit and \$6,941.80 Police Revenue.

+ Rebuilding trunk telephone lines alone amounted to \$191,537.95.

STATE OF PERLIS,

CONTENTS.

PREFATORY NOTE.

	Page.
I.—GEOGRAPHICAL	47
II.—HISTORICAL	47

ANNUAL REPORT, 1346 A.H.

I.—FINANCIAL	48
II.—AUDIT	49
III.—CHANDU MONOPOLY	49
IV.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES	50
V.—CUSTOMS AND HARBOURS	51
A.—CUSTOMS	51
B.—MARINE AND HARBOURS	52
VI.—EDUCATION	52
VII.—HEALTH AND CLIMATE	53
A.—MEDICAL	53
B.—VITAL STATISTICS	55
C.—VETERINARY	55
D.—METEOROLOGICAL	56
VIII.—JUDICIAL	56
A.—COURTS	56
B.—PRISONS	57
IX.—LANDS AND MINES	58
X.—MUNICIPAL	60
XI.—POLICE AND CRIME	60
A.—POLICE	60
B.—CRIME	61
XII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	63
XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS	63
A.—ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES	64
B.—BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS	64
XIV.—STATE COUNCIL	66
XV.—SURVEYS	66
XVI.—GENERAL	67

APPENDICES.

A.—REVENUE, A.H. 1344—1346	69
B.—EXPENDITURE, A.H. 1344—1346... ..	70
C.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 1345—1346	71
D.—RAINFALL	72
E.—TEMPERATURE	73

72. The Bahamas appointed a delegate to represent the Colony at the First West Indies Conference to be held in Barbados in January, 1929.

73. Banking interests are represented in the Bahamas by the Royal Bank of Canada, which has a branch in Nassau. There is a Government Savings Bank which is operated under the Post Office Department.

74. The following are the most important Acts passed during the year :—

The Medical Department Act, 1928.—This Act was passed with the object of giving effect to the recommendations of Sir Wilfred Beveridge for the reorganisation of the Public Health Service of the Colony as contained in his report on the Public Health and Medical conditions in New Providence.

The Public Establishments Act, 1928.—This Act was passed with a view to improving the conditions in the Public Service of the Colony in order to attract the best men available and to secure the desirable degree of efficiency from and contentment of the present staff.

The Immigration Act, 1928.—This Act originated in the House of Assembly and was reported by the Select Committee appointed “to consider what action (if any) should be taken to limit and control the business activities of non-residents of the Colony.”

CHAS. P. BETHEL,
Acting Colonial Secretary

Nassau,

12th March, 1929.

STATE OF PERLIS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR A. H. 1346 (1ST JULY, 1927 TO
19TH JUNE, 1928.)

[*The value of the dollar is 2s. 4d.*]

[*A pikul is 133½ pounds av.*]

[*A relong is .711 acre.*]

PREFATORY NOTE.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Perlis is a small State, about 316 square miles in area, between the 6th and 7th parallels of latitude, the coast line running north-west and south-east.

On the west the State is bounded by a range of mountains running north and south which separate it from the Siamese Province of Setul.

On the east the boundary is with the Siamese Province of Nakawn Sritamarat and the Malay State of Kedah and on the south with the State of Kedah.

Padang Besar on the main trunk line to Bangkok is the frontier railway-station between Siam and Malaya.

The population is about 45,000, of whom some 40,000 are Malays.

II.—HISTORICAL.

2. Perlis was made a separate State by the Siamese in about 1841 A. D. when an Arab named Syed Hussin, whose father, Syed Harun, had previously acquired the status of a local chief, was made Raja.

The present Raja, Syed Alwi ibni Almerhum Syed Safi, is the fourth who held that position under the suzerainty of Siam.

A European Adviser was appointed from Bangkok in 1905 at the request of the Raja to aid him in putting the State's finances in order and remained until 15th July, 1909, when in consequence of a treaty concluded between Great Britain and Siam, whereby the suzerainty of Siam was exchanged for that of Great Britain, the duties were handed over to a British Adviser.

Mr. Meadows Frost, M.C.S., was the first to act in the new appointment.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1346 A.H.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The Revenue of the State for the year amounted to \$645,114 on an Estimate of \$570,030 and exceeded that of the previous year by \$30,449.

The advance in Revenue during the past 5 years is shown by the following figures:—

A.H.				\$
1342	..	..	..	453,452
1343	..	..	..	470,616
1344	..	..	..	594,098
1345	..	..	..	614,665
1346	..	..	..	645,114
1347 (Estimated)	..	..	..	595,200

The Revenue in 1327 (1909), the first year of British Administration, was \$102,552.

2. The Expenditure amounted to \$622,928 as against \$630,768 in the previous year. The Estimate was \$564,684.

Expenditure included a sum of \$50,000 paid in reduction of the debt to the Government of the Federated Malay States which stood at the end of the year at \$100,000 and at the time of writing has been reduced by a further payment to \$50,000. The excess over the Estimate was largely due to a special vote of \$28,500 for completion of the extension of the Water Supply to Arau. Other expenditure not provided for in the 1346 Estimates included sum; for purchase of land, purchase of motor lorries for the Public Works Department and expenses of an Agricultural Show.

Details are given in Appendices A and B.

3. The surplus of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year amounted to \$377,447.

A statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the two years 1345 and 1346 is given in Appendix C.

Investments amounting to \$295,000, which consist of Straits Settlements Government securities and Singapore Municipal debentures, are entered at face value.

Of the sum of \$46,436 shown under Deposits a considerable portion will ultimately be credited to Revenue.

II.—AUDIT.

4. The work of this Office was carried out by an Assistant State Auditor and three clerks under the supervision of the Adviser who performs the duties of State Auditor.

5. Sixty regular Audits of Offices were performed, representing approximately a quarterly examination, and 819 audits of out-station Police, Customs, Chandu, Municipal and Veterinary accounts, representing more than a monthly inspection.

6. A large number of surprise examinations were conducted by the Adviser.

7. The cost of the department, including salaries was \$2,698.

III.—CHANDU MONOPOLY.

8. The total amount of Chandu (prepared opium) sold was 20,435 tahils as against 19,812 tahils in 1345.

9. The total gross revenue collected was \$272,082. Of this sum \$53,133 was paid to the Straits Settlements Government for purchase of Chandu leaving a nett revenue of \$218,948.

10. Opium was sold at 6 Government retail shops to male adult Chinese only. There are no licensed retail shops in the State.

Two Smoking Saloons were licensed at Kangar and Kaki Bukit. Arrangements were made at the end of the year to replace these by Government Smoking Saloons.

11. There were 10 prosecutions before the Courts with 8 convictions.

Fines amounted to \$243.

12. Haji Ismail bin Haji Ibrahim, Assistant State Treasurer, acted as Superintendent throughout the year. The staff consisted of 8 clerks and 5 Revenue officers.

IV.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

13. Inche Wan Ahmad bin Wan Daud, State Treasurer, continued to be Officer-in-Charge throughout the year in addition to carrying out his duties in the Treasury.

14. The year under review was the second since the passing of the Co-operative Societies Enactment and the commencement of formation of Co-operative Societies in the State.

15. At beginning of the year there were two Societies, namely a Thrift and Loan Society for Government Servants and a Rural Credit Society at Kuala Perlis where the members are fishermen.

During the year four more Rural Credit Societies were formed, with members whose occupation is mainly agricultural.

At the end of the year the six Societies had a total membership of 407 with a total paid-up capital of \$12,325.

16. There is reason to hope that the formation of the Rural Credit Societies will in time effect the disappearance of the system known as "padi kuncha" among the agricultural population which entails borrowing money at 100 per cent interest or even more.

At present it frequently happens that a padi cultivator borrows, say \$10, at the beginning of the planting season and undertakes to repay the loan after the padi harvest by one kuncha of padi or its equivalent value of about \$20. If the harvest is poor or, if for some other reason, the borrower is unable to repay the loan, the money lender extends the period of repayment until the end of the next harvest on condition that the amount due, viz \$20, be treated as principal and that the loan be repaid by two kunchas of padi or \$40. The result is that many a padi cultivator finds himself in a hopeless financial position from which he cannot extricate himself.

17. The progress of the Co-operative movement in the State is in a large measure due to the support given by Tuan Syed Hamzah, Vice-President of the State Council, Haji Mohamad Noor, Chief Kathi and Haji Ahmad, Chief Magistrate.

18. Expenditure on Personal Emoluments amounted to \$3,240 and on other charges to \$728.

V.—CUSTOMS AND HARBOURS.

A.—CUSTOMS.

19. The total revenue collected from Customs amounted to \$246,337 as against an estimate of \$225,000 and exceeded the revenue collected in 1345 by \$28,921.

The principal items were:—

	1345.	1346.
	\$	\$
Import duty on liquor	35,377	34,831
.. .. tobacco	56,203	57,861
Export duty on poultry	8,214	9,849
.. .. padi and rice	28,461	32,113
.. .. tin-ore	58,417	81,691
.. .. rubber	10,086	11,058
.. .. fish	7,592	4,915

20. The quantity of the various dutiable articles imported was as follows:—

	1345.	1346.
Tobacco (pikuls)	552	557
Cigars (lbs.)	605	638
Cigarettes (lbs.)	33,391	34,194
European spirits (gallons)	1,855	1,855
Chinese spirits (gallons)	2,446	2,630
Beer, Cider etc. (gallons)	3,576	4,434
Petroleum (gallons)	138,767	147,632

21. The quantity of the principal articles exported is given below:—

	1345.	1346.
Tin-ore (pikuls)	5,551	9,234
Padi and rice (pikuls)	148,000	139,007
Fish (pikuls)	6,657	4,706
Poultry	82,027	98,492
Eggs	3,507,008	3,327,884
Rubber (pikuls)	3,745	4,119
Cattle (Head)	42	47
Sheep and Goats (Head)	146	128
Hides (pikuls)	193	180
Copra (pikuls)	1,505	2,454
Betel-nut (pikuls)	616	528

Other exports include guano, tapioca flour, ataps, firewood and honey.

B.—MARINE AND HARBOURS.

22. Junks entering increased from 248 to 326 and tonnage from 6,575 to 7,884. Small boats entering increased from 338 to 374. Calls by Motor Boats increased from 106 to 240.

The figures for vessels leaving are indential with those entering.

23. Lights were maintained at Kuala Perlis and at Kuala Sanglang.

24. The following fishing licences were issued and boats registered:—

	1345.	1346.
Deep water fishing stakes	176	186
Shallow water fishing stakes	44	56
Seine and drift nets	133	109
Fishing lines	..	39
Boats	740	728

25. Twenty-one prosecutions were brought in matters relating to Customs with 19 convictions, and 3 relating to Harbours with 3 convictions.

26. The Marine and Harbour Revenue amounted to \$2,315 as against \$2,137 in 1345.

Inche Muhammad Arshad was in charge of the Customs and Harbours Departments until the end of the year when he retired on pension after nearly 30 years faithful service under the Governments of Kedah and Perlis.

VI.—EDUCATION.

27. Nineteen schools, including schools for girls at Kangar and Arau, were maintained.

In addition to the above a new school was opened during the year in a temporary building at Santan.

A new building of a better type was erected at Paya and a similar new building was commenced at Kuala Sanglang, to replace old and unserviceable buildings.

The staff consisted of a Visiting Teacher, an Assistant Visiting Teacher, a Visiting Teacher Koran and 89 teachers, including teachers of the Koran.

The number of school-children on the register at the end of the year was 2,086 an increase of 39 on the figure for the previous year.

The percentage of attendance was 85 and of attendance at Koran classes 87.

28. Vernacular instruction is given up to the 5th standard. Ninety-four boys passed this standard at the annual examination.

The annual Koran examination at all schools was conducted by the Chief Kathi. The number of entries was 540 and the percentage of passes was 75.

Four boys are studying at the Penang Free School at Government expense.

There are four Perlis students at the Sultan Idris Teachers' Training College at Tanjong Malim in Perak. Two are now in their third year while the other two only went to the College during the year under review.

About 500 school-children attended the King's Birthday Parade and gave an exhibition of physical drill.

The total expenditure of the Department amounted to \$36,272 as against \$34,865 in the previous year.

VII.—HEALTH AND CLIMATE.

A.—MEDICAL.

29. A General Hospital is maintained by Government at Kangar with ward accommodation for 60 patients.

A hut "family ward" with accommodation for two families, intended specially for the use of Malay women, was completed during the year. This ward, which has been named the "Lilian Williams" Ward in recognition of the work done by Mrs. Williams, the wife of the Adviser, for the women of Perlis, was opened by His Highness the Raja in the eleventh month (May, 1928).

Mr. R. Sivasambandan was Assistant Surgeon-in-Charge throughout the year.

A Malay mid-wife was appointed during the year.

The State Surgeon, Kedah, paid monthly visits to the Hospital, in addition to advising on more important matters.

30. The number of in-patients during the year was 1,087 as against 1,007 in 1345 and 620 in 1344.

The number of female patients treated was 132. The figures for the years 1345 and 1344 were 84 and 43 respectively.

The percentage of deaths was 6.25 as compared with 5.6 in 1345 and 6.93 in 1344. If deaths within 48 hours of admission are omitted the death rate was 3.8 per cent as against 4.35 per cent in the previous year.

The daily average of patients was 46.75 as compared with 37.23 in 1345.

Nineteen major operations and 2,042 minor operations were performed and 45 post mortems were held.

Of the 1,087 patients treated 527 were Indians, 386 were Chinese and 162 were Malays.

Blood films and other specimens numbering 4,372 were examined in the laboratory.

The principal diseases were malaria, ankylostomiasis, dysentery, tuberculosis and venereal disease. Malaria cases numbered 356 with 14 deaths. The number of cases admitted for ankylostomiasis (hook worm disease) increased considerably being 83 in 1346 as against 34 in 1345.

31. Out-door patients numbered 6,568 as compared with 6,434 in the previous year. Of these 3,946 were Malays, 1,463 Indians and 1,017 Chinese.

In addition to the above 147 cases were treated in the Kangar Gaol.

The Travelling Dispensary again did most useful work and was much appreciated.

The number of vaccinations performed was 2,864 as compared with 2,363 in the previous year.

The total number of intravenous injections of neo-salvarsan was 1,583 of which 1,070 were for yaws and 513 for venereal disease.

32. Two mental cases were transferred to the Central Mental Hospital at Tanjong Rambutan where there were 17 Perlis patients at the end of the year.

One case of leprosy (Tamil) was transferred to the Leper Asylum at Pulau Jerjak. There are now 3 Perlis patients at the Asylum.

Five Southern Indians were repatriated to India through the Labour Office at Penang during the year.

33. Revenue amounted to \$1622, \$965 being for Hospital fees and \$657 for sale of medicines.

Expenditure was \$23,585 (\$20,921 in 1345) of which \$9,333 was for salaries and \$14,252 was expended on other charges.

B.—VITAL STATISTICS.

34. Nine hundred and forty births were registered during the year, of which 773 were Malays, 105 Chinese, 49 Siamese and 13 Indians. Males born numbered 482 and females 458.

The Birth rate is 24.26 per mille.

35. Seven hundred and twenty-two deaths were registered; 552 Malays, 125 Chinese, 24 Siamese and 21 Indians.

Four hundred and fourteen were males and 308 females.

The following table shows the incidence of deaths at various ages:-

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths.</i>
Over 50 years	228
Between 30 and 50 years	163
Between 10 and 30 years	120
Between 1 and 10 years	117
Under 12 months	94
Total	722

The death rate is 15.56 per mille.

C.—VETERINARY.

36. The number of licences for cattle issued during the year was 3282 being a decrease of 97 on the number issued in the previous year. No cattle were imported and only 19 head of cattle were exported. Import from Siam had to be stopped in the year 1344 owing to the prevalence of cattle disease in that country, and it became necessary to restrict export owing to the impossibility of replacement. These restrictions are still in force.

There was no cattle epidemic in the State during the year.

37. There was no further case of rabies in the State, but the shooting of stray dogs was continued and about 200 dogs were destroyed.

D.—METEOROLOGICAL.

38. Abstracts of Meteorological observations are given in Appendices D and E. The Rainfall at Kangar totalled 87.77 inches during the year under review.

The average annual rainfall at Kangar during the last 10 years is 80.97 inches. The greatest rainfall at Kangar in 24 hours was 4.41 inches on 5th August, 1927. The highest temperature recorded at Kangar during the year was 96° on 12th February, 1928 and the lowest 66° on 17th January, 1928.

VIII.—JUDICIAL.

A.—COURTS.

39. The revenue collected in the Civil and Criminal Courts amounted to \$21,381 as compared with \$18,714 in 1345 and \$18,077 in 1344.

Expenditure was \$15,004.

The revenue of the Sheriah Court amounted to \$1,515 (\$1,608 in 1345.)

40. The work done in the Courts is tabulated hereunder:—

CRIMINAL COURTS.

		Cases from 1345	Instituted in 1346	Disposed of in 1346	Pending at end of 1346
Appeal Court	...	...	17	17	...
Senior Court	...	...	24	23	1
Junior Court	...	8	595	599	4
Sheriah Court	...	5	48	45	8

CIVIL COURTS.

	Cases from 1345.	Instituted in 1346.	Disposed of in 1346.	Pending at end of 1346.
Senior Court (Appeal)	...	31	30	1
Junior Court	16	796	751	58
Sheriah Court	19	63	77	5

41. Of 76 administration suits set down for hearing 68 were disposed of during the year.

42. Of 17 Criminal appeals instituted in 1346, 5 were dismissed, 6 were allowed and in 6 cases the decision of the Lower Court was varied.

Of 31 Civil appeals instituted in 1346, 16 were dismissed, 11 were allowed and in 2 cases the order of the Lower Court was varied. One appeal was withdrawn and one pending at the end of the year.

43. There were 3 Criminal appeals to the Raja's Court, 2 of which were dismissed and one was allowed.

There was one Civil appeal to the Raja's Court which was dismissed.

B.—PRISONS.

44. The Adviser is Superintendent of Prisons and is assisted by a Gaoler. The staff consisted at the end of the year of 4 Sikh N.C.O.'s and 4 Sikh and 9 Malay warders.

There were 43 prisoners remaining at the end of the previous year. 125 were admitted during the year, two of whom were women. One prisoner died and one escaped while working outside the Gaol. 39 prisoners remained at the end of the year.

Forty-three offences by prisoners and eighteen by warders were dealt with by the Superintendent. Thirty-nine prisoners were punished and 4 discharged. In the 18 cases against the warders 15 were punished and 3 discharged.

Inche Muhammad Nossie acted as Gaoler until the third month when Inche Mahmood was appointed to the post.

45. Rice is purchased and milled in the Gaol. 22,112 gantangs of padi were milled into 10,978 gantangs of rice and sold for \$4,345.

Rice was supplied to the Medical and Public Works Departments as well as used in the Gaol.

Materials for manufacture were bought during the year at a cost of \$1,599 and manufactures to the value of \$2,349 were sold.

The work done inside the Gaol included rice-milling, carpentry, basketry, chickmaking and licence and other notice-board writing.

A large amount of furniture was made for Government Departments and a rattan furniture exhibit was sent to the local Agricultural Show where it was awarded a Diploma.

A considerable amount of extra-mural work was performed such as scavenging, grass-cutting, drain-cleaning, gardening and so forth.

46. The health of the prisoners was again satisfactory.

47. The total revenue collected amounted to \$6,694 (\$5,916 in 1345) and expenditure to \$17,378 (\$15,263 in 1345).

IX.—LANDS AND MINES.

48. The total Revenue from Lands and Mines amounted to \$90,303 as against \$89,294 in 1345. Land Rents, recurrent, amounted to \$35,877 and arrears to the amount of \$5,984 were collected.

3,942 notices of demand for rent were issued and 761 warrants of attachment.

A sum of \$8,882 was collected on land held under Temporary Occupation licences as compared with \$8,284 in 1345.

Survey fees collected amounted to \$6,098.

The demand for agricultural land continued and the amount realised by sale was \$19,066 as against \$24,251 in 1345 and \$17,792 in 1344.

907 relongs were alienated for padi planting, 261 for "Kampong" cultivation and 1,245 for the planting of rubber.

49. The area of wet padi land in the State is estimated at 55,730 relongs. Of this area 45,908 relongs are reported to have been planted with wet padi during the year under review.

The padi crop harvested at the end of the year (season 1927-1928) was estimated at 5,434,000 gantangs as compared with 9,655,939 gantangs in 1345.

The average yield was 118 gantangs a relong.

The chief reason for the poor crop appears to have been a drought in the early planting stages before the plants had got firmly established.

The prospects for the coming season are fortunately much better.

50. The Inspector of Lands continued as in previous years to investigate cases of occupation of State land without authority and cases where letters of administration of estates by deceased persons have not yet been obtained.

His duties also included the carrying out of the Land Office procedure for collection of arrears of rent.

Tuan Syed Hassan bin Syed Zain continued as Inspector of Lands until the end of the year when he was transferred to the post of Collector of Customs.

51. Mines revenue amounted to \$4,966 as compared with \$3,724 in 1345. Rent amounted to \$3,473 and survey fees to \$1,088, while \$385 was collected on the issue of 16 prospecting licences.

Twenty-one Mining Certificates were issued and one Mining licence.

The total amount of tin exported during the year amounted to 9,234 pikuls as compared with 5,551 pikuls in 1345.

The total area of land held under mining titles at the end of the year was 3,238 relongs. With the exception of 216 relongs, the whole of this area has been alienated for cave mining in the limestone hills, or "Wangs" as they are known locally.

52. The total Expenditure of the Lands and Mines Office including personal emoluments of Penghulus amounted to \$22,681 and that of the office of the Inspector of Lands to \$3,799.

Tuan Syed Idrus bin Tuan Che Indut continued to be Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

X.—MUNICIPAL.

53. The Board held 8 meetings at Kangar, 3 at Arau, 5 at Padang Besar and 2 at Kaki Bukit.

The usual matters relating to health, buildings etc. were dealt with in these areas which were well kept.

54. There were 16 prosecutions for offences under the Enactment with convictions in all cases.

55. Revenue amounted to \$16,978 and expenditure to \$10,891 as compared with \$16,153 and \$9,534 in 1345.

Inche Muhammad Arshad bin Che Matt, Collector of Customs, continued to officiate as Chairman of the Board until the end of the year when he retired on pension.

The Board consists of the Chairman, the Assistant Engineer, the Assistant Surgeon, the Chief of Police and from two to four unofficial members for each of the various areas.

The thanks of Government are again due to these unofficial members for their valuable assistance.

XI.—POLICE AND CRIME.

A.—POLICE.

56. Inche Matt bin Haji Kassim continued to be in charge of the Police Department and was promoted to be Chief of Police from the beginning of the year.

The duties of the Chief of Police include the issue of timber passes, the veterinary work, the registration of births and deaths and the registration of vehicles.

Inche Ahmad bin Haji Abdulrahman assumed duty as Inspector of Police in the ninth month after completing a year's training at the Police Depot, Kuala Lumpur.

The Chief of Police was also assisted by Inche Mohamed Hashim bin Ariff who was promoted at the beginning of the year from the rank of Sergeant-Major to Sub-Inspector.

A Lance-Corporal was sent during the year to the Police Depot at Kuala Lumpur to undergo a course of training as a drill-instructor.

57. Seven Police stations were maintained in the State.

The strength of the force at the close of the year was 84 of all ranks: with few exceptions the whole Force is Malay.

Fifteen recruits, most of whom were Perlis born, were enrolled.

58. Discipline was on the whole good. There was one dismissal and two men deserted.

The health of the force was fairly good.

There was one death and 3 men retired on the grounds of ill health.

59. The number of licences issued under the various Enactments during the year was 1,065 as compared with 1,011 in 1345.

60. The Revenue of the Department amounted to \$9,195 as against \$8,470 collected in 1345.

The chief increases occurred under music passes, registration of vehicles and timber passes.

Police Expenditure amounted to \$39,158 as against \$35,633 in 1345.

B.—CRIME.

61. Three hundred and twenty reports were received at the various Stations as against 260 in the previous year. Of the 320 reports 258 were admitted while 62 were not proceeded with or were referred to the Courts. Discoveries were made in 198 cases.

Eighty-three reports of theft were admitted as against 70 reports in 1345.

In 53 cases investigations were successful.

Fourteen reports of cattle theft were admitted and in 7 cases recovery was effected.

Three reports of robbery were admitted and discovery was made in each case.

Four reports of murder were received during the year and investigated. Arrests were made in two cases. In one case the Court acquitted the accused and in the other the charge was subsequently withdrawn as the evidence proved insufficient to support the prosecution.

Of the two cases in which no arrests were made one concerned a Malay who was able to give the name of his assailant before he died. The alleged assailant could not however be found and information was obtained that he had fled to Siam. In the other case no clue as to the offender could be found but it would appear that the deceased, who was a well-known bad character, met his death while about to commit a theft.

62. Five hundred and twenty cases involving 780 persons were sent for trial by the Courts, an increase of 106 on the number of cases in the previous year.

This increase is largely due to an increase in the number of traffic cases and to a larger number of cases for offences under Enactments. In 469 cases 664 persons were convicted as compared with 366 convictions (502 persons) in 1345.

In 51 cases concerning 116 persons prosecution failed.

Eleven cases of accidental death were investigated. Two persons met their death by snake bite, one was gored by a wild boar and two were killed by lightning.

There were two fatal accidents while cave mining.

Six Siamese persons were extradited and surrendered to the Siamese authorities.

XII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

63. The following correspondence was dealt with at Kangar Post Office:—

	1345.	1346.
Letters ...	60,593	88,335
Registered Articles	3,628	3,816
Parcels ...	1,114	1,162
Insured Parcels ...	14 (value \$728)	30 (value \$1,848)
C. O. D. Parcels ...	225 (Trade Charges \$2,108. Delivery fees \$33).	243 (Trade Charges \$2,260. Delivery fees \$25).

The following number of telegrams were transmitted to and from Kangar:—

	1345	1346
Despatched	2,119	2,119
Delivered	2,093	2,054

Money Orders and Postal Orders to the value of \$33,774 were handled at the Kangar Post Office, as compared with orders to the value of \$33,449 in 1345.

At Padang Besar Railway Station, on the Siamese frontier, the following correspondence was dealt with:—

	1345	1346
Letters	33,033	34,762
Registered Articles	1,064	1,708
Parcels	58	55

Telegrams were handled by the Railway Telegraph Office.

64. This Department is maintained by the Kedah Government which also controls the telephone system.

XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

65. The total Expenditure of the Department amounted to \$206,324 on an estimate, including Supplementary Votes, of \$210,001.

Personal Emoluments accounted for \$15,251 and other charges, annually recurrent, for \$2,674.

*RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.**A.—ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES.*

66. Expenditure was \$49,976 as against \$40,078 in the previous year.

Thirty-six and half miles of metalled roads were upkept at a cost of \$1,342 per mile and 8 miles were re-metalled during the year.

Seven miles of unmetalled road and 22¼ miles of path were also maintained.

A commencement was made with asphaltting the roads in the State.

One mile of road varying from 14 feet to 28 feet in width was asphalted at a cost of \$2,577 paid from a special service provision, but in future there will be an annually recurrent vote for this purpose.

B.—BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

67. The total number of Government Buildings in the State at the end of the year was 160 which were upkept at a cost of \$6,000. Six new buildings were completed and five others were in course of construction.

A sum of \$8,000 was spent on Minor Works, forseen and unforeseen.

68. The total cost of maintenance of Waterways and Irrigations Works was \$5,993 including \$5,000 for clearing canals and rivers and \$645 for repairing various dams.

Some 55 miles of canals and rivers were cleared during the year at an average cost of \$91 per mile.

A sum of \$5,545 was spent on maintenance of the Waterworks.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

69. The road between Kangar and Tebing Tinggi on the Perlis river which had not been maintained for some years was re-metalled and put into good condition.

A reinforced concrete pile bridge at the 11th mile on the Kaki Bukit road was completed. The replacing of temporary culverts and bridges by permanent structures on the main roads was continued.

Two new motor lorries and a new steam roller were purchased during the year.

70. A permanent ferro-concrete dam 30 feet wide by 91½ feet deep was commenced at Padang Malau on the Pelarit River.

By the end of the year the main structure of the dam, except for sluices and lifting gear, was nearly completed. Considerable difficulties were caused by heavy rains towards the end of the year, as this river rises very quickly.

71. The Kangar and Arau water-supply, which had been completed as far as Kangar in 1345, was continued to Arau during the year under review and finally completed in the fifth month (November, 1927). The total cost of these waterworks which were commenced in 1344 has been a little over \$227,700 which is a large sum for this State.

The above sum does not include the cost of two new filter beds which have since been added. One of these was completed, except for filling with filtering material, by the end of the year.

72. A Hut Ward at the Kangar Hospital with accommodation for two families was completed during the year. As already stated this ward has been named the "Lilian Williams" Ward and was formally opened by His Highness the Raja in the 11th month.

A female ward at the same hospital was also completed during the year.

73. A Reception Hall was built at the Astana, Arau, and an extension to the Malay Club at Kangar was completed.

Other works carried out during the year included special repairs to the Customs Office and the Market at Kangar.

74. School buildings and Teachers Quarters were completed at Sungei Berembang, Kayang and Paya, but work on similar buildings at Sanglang and Utan Aji was unfortunately stopped owing to the absconding of the Malay contractors. Steps have been taken to secure the completion of these schools by other contractors.

75. The average labour force of the Department was 173. Their health was generally good.

Mr. G. C. Hesketh was Assistant Engineer until the seventh month (January, 1928), when he was succeeded by Mr. J. J. Bryan, also an Assistant Engineer of the F. M. S. Public Works Department.

Mr. C. R. Savege was Assistant Engineer, Waterworks, until the eighth month (end of January, 1928).

The State Engineer, Kedah, gave valuable advice on more important matters and paid monthly visits to the State.

XIV.—STATE COUNCIL.

76. There were 44 meetings of the State Council.

His Highness the Raja presided at every meeting.

The following Enactments were passed:—

1. The Land Tenure Amendment Enactment.
2. The Concessions Amendment Enactment.
3. The Registration of Deeds Amendment Enactment.
4. The Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Enactment.
5. The Administration of Estates Amendment Enactment.

XV.—SURVEYS.

77. The Expenditure of the Department amounted to \$18,747.

78. Preliminary plans following demarcation were drawn in the Kedah District Survey Office, Alor Star, while the more rigorous drafting of the 2-chain sheets and the preparation of titles were carried out in the Kedah Head Office at Kulim.

79. One thousand and sixty-four lots were demarcated covering 5,309 acres as against 1,364 lots and 5,181 acres in 1345. The decrease is due partly to the increasingly scattered nature of the work and partly to a smaller field staff.

The total number of lots demarcated at the end of 1346 amounted to 24,214.

80. Nine hundred and forty-one lots were plotted in the District Survey Office on the preliminary plans and 1,114 lots were added to the 2-chain sheets in the Head Office which are based on co-ordinated chain and compass traverse controlled by theodolite traverses.

One thousand one hundred and fourteen small grants were forwarded to the Land Office making a total of 6,865.

Nine sun prints of the two-chain sheets were prepared and forwarded to the Adviser.

Sun prints of 119 areas representing 941 lots in four mukims were prepared and forwarded to the Land Office for Preliminary Settlement.

Requisitions (indicating the completion of Preliminary Settlement) for the survey of 793 lots were received from the Land Office, making a total of 10,851.

81. The computations of 12 control traverses representing 78.17 miles were finally co-ordinated and passed.

A special underground mining survey was done by the Department during the year to fix the position of certain tin workings disputed by adjoining mine owners.

Mr. W. J. C. Stevens was in charge of the Department throughout the year and the field-work was supervised by Mr. O. Watson, Assistant Superintendent, North Kedah until the fourth month when he was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Stubington.

XVI.—GENERAL.

82. His Highness the Raja enjoyed excellent health and presided at every meeting of the State Council throughout the year.

His Highness paid a private visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Singapore in July, 1927.

83. His Excellency the High Commissioner paid a visit to the State in December, 1927 and in particular expressed his pleasure at what he saw during an inspection of the Hospital and Gaol at Kangar.

84. A second agricultural show was opened by His Highness in January, 1928. It proved very successful and the attendance exceeded 37,000 persons.

Several Perlis exhibits were sent to the Kuala Lumpur agricultural show earlier in the year.

85. The King's Birthday was celebrated by a parade of Police and Boy Scouts, followed by a display of physical drill by over 500 Malay school boys and of dumb-bell exercises by Chinese school children. Athletic sports were held in the afternoon.

86. A Malay troupe of Boy Scouts was formed during the year and proved very useful at the agricultural show.

A successful rally was held at the Residency in May.

87. Mr. P. S. Williams acted as British Adviser until the twelfth month (24th May, 1928) when he went on furlough and was succeeded by Mr. L. A. Allen.

88. The year under review saw a continuance of the prosperity which the State has enjoyed in recent years, and it was not until the end of the year that the general trade depression elsewhere in the Peninsula, accentuated by the partial failure of the local padi crop began to be felt in the State.

L. A. ALLEN,
Ag. British Adviser, Perlis.

Kangar, 5th November, 1928.

APPENDIX A.

*Return of Annual Revenue collected in the years
A. H. 1344, 1345, and 1346.*

Headings.				1344.	1345.	1346.
				\$	\$	\$
Land	...	...	...	92,012	85,570	85,337
Mines	...	...	...	3,161	3,724	4,966
Forests	...	...	...	1,558	1,610	1,826
Customs	...	...	...	217,811	217,416	216,337
Chandu Monopoly	...	...	...	200,132	220,874	218,948
Farms and Licences	...	...	...	6,914	9,104	9,025
Harbours	...	...	...	2,272	2,137	2,315
Courts	...	...	...	18,077	18,714	21,381
Sheriah Court	...	...	...	1,534	1,608	1,515
Police	...	...	...	6,065	6,013	6,549
Veterinary	...	...	...	1,342	846	821
Municipal	...	...	...	15,976	16,153	16,978
Prison	...	...	...	5,714	5,916	6,694
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	21,530	24,980	22,422
TOTAL ...				594,098	614,665	615,114

APPENDIX B.

*Return of Annual Expenditure incurred in the years**A. H. 1344, 1345, and 1346.*

Headings.	1344.	1345.	1346.
	\$	\$	\$
His Highness the Raja ...	25,560	34,957	36,583
Office Raja and Adviser ...	14,217	16,000	16,119
Audit Office ...	1,780	2,292	2,698
Chandu Monopoly ...	6,377	8,942	10,960
Treasury ...	4,114	4,751	3,580
Co-operative Societies...	...	1,762	3,968
Courts ...	11,826	12,897	15,004
Sheriah Court ...	4,607	4,757	5,372
Mosques ...	3,681	4,013	4,111
Police ...	30,518	35,129	38,619
Veterinary ...	1,083	504	540
Lands and Mines ...	17,095	16,288	16,525
Penghulus ...	5,532	5,311	6,156
Office Inspector of Lands ...	...	3,318	3,799
Surveys ...	14,709	16,800	18,747
Prison ...	15,601	15,263	17,378
Medical ...	20,143	20,921	23,585
Education ...	27,366	34,865	36,272
Customs and Harbours ...	12,002	13,647	14,930
Municipal ...	9,174	9,533	10,891
Ruling House Allowances, Pen- sions etc ...	12,370	16,353	16,110
Repayment of Loan to F. M. S. Government ...	50,000	50,000	50,000
Interest on loans ...	8,899	6,927	4,771
Miscellaneous ...	31,361	48,493	59,886
Public Works ...	237,056	247,015	206,324
TOTAL ...	565,071	630,768	622,928

APPENDIX C.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the two years 1945 and 1946.

Liabilities.	At end of 1945 (30-6-27)	At end of 1946 (19-6-28)	Assets.	At end of 1945 (30-6-27)	At end of 1946 (19-6-28)
	£	£		£	£
Loan	...	150,000	Cash in Treasury	...	46,030
Deposits	...	64,711	Cash at Bank	...	77,691
Excess of Assets	...	305,235	Investments	...	295,000
			Advances	...	105,162
TOTAL	...	519,946	TOTAL	...	523,883

APPENDIX D.

Abstract of Rainfall Observations at three Stations of the State during the years 1927 and 1928 (part).

Months.		Kangar.		Kaki Bukit.		Padang Besar.	
		1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928
		Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
January	...	4.06	1.98	2.94	2.09	5.03	1.48
February	...	4.03	1.43	2.99	3.20	1.06	2.85
March	...	7.93	6.96	4.59	6.24	5.43	4.79
April	...	5.97	5.21	7.88	6.58	8.99	5.46
May	...	9.06	12.87	11.65	8.84	9.31	7.04
June	...	5.04	4.37	6.22	2.00	5.69	1.92
July	...	12.88	3.29	9.11	3.26	6.66	5.20
August	...	14.24	5.90	11.41	10.50	9.95	5.82
September	...	10.80	12.64	6.28	12.29	11.37	7.28
October	...	8.96	10.12	7.16	10.84	5.92	11.21
November	...	6.77	5.12	5.63	8.24	5.17	6.77
December	...	1.30	...	2.09	...	2.01	...
TOTAL	...	91.04	...	77.95	...	76.59	...

APPENDIX E.

*Abstract of Thermometrical Observations at the General
Hospital, Kangar during the years 1927
and 1928 (part).*

Months.	Thermometer Mean (In Shade)			Highest recorded Shade Tempera- ture	Lowest recorded Shade Tempera- ture
	Maximum	Minimum	Range		
1927.					
January ...	87.5	72.7	14.8	91	71
February ...	90.3	72.1	18.2	95	69
March ...	91.8	73.9	17.9	96	72
April ...	91.0	73.6	17.4	94	72
May ...	88.5	74.4	14.1	92	72
June ...	87.3	74.3	13.0	92	72
July ...	86.6	74.5	12.1	92	72
August ...	86.4	71.9	14.5	90	70
September...	87.2	74.1	13.1	90	72
October ...	86.5	73.2	13.3	90	72
November...	88.2	73.4	14.8	94	72
December ...	89.3	72.0	17.3	94	70
Mean for year 1927.	88.4	73.3	15.1	...	...
1928.					
January ...	91.0	71.7	19.3	94	66
February ...	91.8	72.1	19.7	96	69
March ...	92.2	72.5	19.7	95	70
April ...	91.3	74.0	17.3	94	72
May ...	88.9	74.5	14.4	96	72
June ...	90.0	74.1	15.9	92	72
July ...	90.6	73.8	16.8	94	72
August ...	88.6	73.5	15.1	92	72
September...	87.0	73.3	13.7	92	72
October ...	86.7	73.2	13.5	94	70
November...	89.1	72.1	17.0	92	68
December ...	...	...	...	...	...

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(Unfederated Malay States)

Reports for the Year 1346 A.H.

(1st July, 1927—19th June, 1928)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH ADVISER TO THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT

for the year 1346 A.H.

(1ST JULY, 1927—19TH JUNE, 1928)

BY

T. W. CLAYTON,

British Adviser to the Kedah Government,

WITH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH ADVISER TO THE PERLIS GOVERNMENT

for the same period

BY

L. A. ALLEN,

Acting British Adviser to the Perlis Government.

—❖—
Alor Star:

PRINTED AT THE KEDAH GOVERNMENT PRESS.

1928.

STATE OF KEDAH.

CONTENTS.

PREFATORY NOTE.

	Page.
A.—GEOGRAPHICAL	1
B.—HISTORICAL	1

ANNUAL REPORT, 1346.

I.—FINANCIAL	3
II.—STATE COUNCIL AND LEGISLATION	4
III.—LANDS	5
IV.—RUBBER RESTRICTION	8
V.—SURVEYS	9
VI.—AGRICULTURE	10
VII.—MINES	11
VIII.—FORESTS	12
IX.—COURTS	13
X.—POLICE	14
XI.—PRISONS	15
XII.—MEDICAL AND HEALTH	17
XIII.—VETERINARY	19
XIV.—EDUCATION	20
XV.—LABOUR	22
XVI.—CHINESE PROTECTORATE	23
XVII.—SANITARY BOARDS	23
XVIII.—MONOPOLIES AND CUSTOMS	25
XIX.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	26
XX.—PUBLIC WORKS	27
XXI.—PRINTING	30
XXII.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES	30
XXIII.—MARINE	31
XXIV.—TRADE	32
XXV.—GENERAL	32

APPENDICES.

A.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 30TH ZULHIJAH, 1346 (19-6-28)	35
B.—REVENUE A.H. 1342-1346 (A.D. 1924-1928)	36
C.—EXPENDITURE A.H. 1342-1346 (A.D. 1924-1928)... ..	37
D.—LAND REVENUE A.H. 1346	38-39
E.—RETURN OF CASES TRIED IN COURTS 1346	40
F.—RETURN OF RAINFALL 1928	41
G.—ANNUAL SHADE TEMPERATURE	42
H.—STATISTICS OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	43

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STATE OF KEDAH.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR A. H. 1346 (1ST JULY 1927 TO 19TH
JUNE, 1928).

[*The value of the dollar is 2s. 4d.*]

PREFATORY NOTE.

A.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Kedah is a Malay State on the West Coast of the Malay Peninsula, situated between the parallels of 5.50 and 6.40 North Latitude and the meridians of 99.40 and 100.55 East Longitude. It is bordered on the interior by the Siamese States of Singora and Patani, and by the State of Perak (Federated Malay States); it extends northwards on the sea coast to the River Sanglang, its boundary with its northern neighbour, the State of Perlis (under British protection), and southwards to the Muda River, its boundary with Province Wellesley in the south: thence the State extends behind Province Wellesley down to the northern bank of the Krian River, which forms its boundary with Pérak.

2. The State includes the island of Langkawi, and a number of adjoining islands, of which Pulau Tuba is the largest. The mainland of Kedah is about 105 miles in length, and at its widest part is about 65 miles in width. Its area including the Langkawi group of islands is about 3,648 square miles. The two highest peaks of the mainland are Gunong Jerai—better known as Kedah Peak (3,986 feet)—and Bukit Perak (2,320 feet). Gunong Raia on Langkawi Island is 2,950 feet high.

B.—HISTORICAL.

3. The earliest references to Kedah with its capital Langkasuka are to be found in the "Hikayat Marong Mahawangsa" or "Kedah Annals". Various mention of Queddah is made by Portuguese and Dutch writers and in 1592 Captain Lancaster called at Pulo Pinang (Penang),

4. During the next 200 years the fortunes of Kedah varied under the rule of Siam until, in 1786 A. D. under Captain Light's "Agreement with the King of Queddah for the cession of Prince of Wales' Island", Penang was occupied and the British Flag hoisted there on 12th August, 1786.

5. This Agreement was modified by Treaty in 1791 whereby the Kedah Government was to receive \$6,000 every year from the Honourable East India Company "so long as the English continue in possession of Pulo Pinang". In 1800 the strip of coast territory now known as Province Wellesley was ceded to the Honourable East India Company in return for a further \$4,000 per annum. These annual payments are still made by the Straits Settlements Government.

6. Upon the occupation of Kedah in 1821 A. D., the Siamese Government divided the Kingdom of Kedah into four parts: Setul, Perlis, Kubang Pasu and Kedah, placing each under a separate ruler. In A. D. 1843, the Sultan of Kedah (who, after his escape to Province Wellesley in 1821, had lived in retreat in Malacca) was allowed to return to Alor Star, and to reassume the rulership of the last mentioned of these four parts. Setul, Perlis, and Kubang Pasu, however, remained under their separate rulers, who were made independent of the Sultan of Kedah.

7. Kubang Pasu is a sparsely populated district in the interior of Kedah, between Kota Star and the Singora frontier, and when Tunku Anum, the Rajah of Kubang Pasu, died some years later, the Siamese Government allowed the district to again become part of Kedah. It is now administered by a District Officer. The Rajah of Perlis is independent of the Sultan of Kedah, and has an entirely separate Government. Setul is now a part of Siam.

8. His Highness Sir Abdul Hamid Halimshah, K.C.M.G., ibni Sultan Ahmad Tajudin, the present Sultan, succeeded to the throne in the year A. D. 1881. In consequence of His Highness' bad health, his eldest son, H. H. Tunku Ibrahim, C.M.G., C.V.O., has acted as Regent since the year 1914.

9. On the 23rd July, 1905, the Sultan issued an Edict appointing a Council of State to assist in the "Administration of all Public Affairs".

10. On the 10th March, 1909, the Anglo-Siamese Treaty was signed whereby the sovereignty of Kedah was transferred from Siam to Great Britain.

In favourable seasons the territory produces wheat, maize, and kaffir corn, while horse-breeding and the raising of cattle and sheep are profitable undertakings, especially the latter; the export of wool for this year amounting to 14,927,616 pounds weight, valued at £765,000 approximately.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the various remnants of tribes which had become scattered about South Africa during the wars of Moselekatse and thus founded what has become the Basuto nation. The estimated native population is 550,000, while the Europeans, as taken at the last Census, numbered 1,600.

A series of wars took place from 1856 onwards between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State, and it was not until 1868, when he was hard pressed by the Boers, that Moshesh appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868, but in 1871 the territory was annexed to the Cape Colony and, after various disturbances, the Government of the Cape in April, 1880, extended the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878 to Basutoland, which included a clause for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto, however, refused to accept the terms and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at by which the Act was repealed and certain fines inflicted on the tribe.

Although outwardly peace had been restored, there still remained several chiefs who would in no way accept the terms, and it was eventually decided by the Government of the Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This took effect on the 13th March, 1884. Since that date the territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

Languages.

The principal languages are English and Sesuto.

Currency.

The coin in circulation is mainly South African, but late South African Republic coins are occasionally met with. Central Reserve Bank notes are brought into the territory, but the local bank only re-issues the notes of joint stock banks. Gold coin is unlimited, but the demand is negligible. £12,500 in gold, £1,000 in silver, and £90 in copper coin was exported during the year by the Maseru branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

The amount of coin in circulation at the end of 1928 was between £40,000 and £50,000, and notes between £100,000 and £125,000.

The Imperial Coinage Act, 1920, is in force in the territory, re-enacted under the High Commissioner's Notice No. 63 of 1920.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in Basutoland are the British Imperial, but the Colonial ton of 2,000 lb. is also used.

I. GENERAL.

In September the aged Chief Jonathan died ; during the earlier wars alluded to in the preceding section this Chief had always been a loyal supporter of the Government and he commanded great respect from the tribe. His successor has been nominated by the Paramount Chief, but up to the time of writing the appointment has not been officially confirmed.

There were no faction fights of importance during the year.

A decision was given in the Privy Council regarding the succession of the sons of the late Chief Mojela in which the judgment of the Resident Commissioner's Court was upheld.

Two new appointments—a Judicial Commissioner and a Crown Prosecutor—were made during the year, the duties of these officers being divided between the High Commission Territories.

Drought.—The territory again suffered from a severe drought in the early spring and autumn ; the crop prospects are, however, fairly normal.

Basutoland Council.—The twenty-third session of the Basutoland National Council was held from the 29th September to the 6th October, 1928. The following were the more important subjects discussed :—

1. Agriculture—the appointment of additional Agricultural Demonstrators and the apathy of many leading chiefs towards Agricultural Shows.
2. Erection of dipping tanks.
3. Deferred pay at the mines—explanation of the “ Engcobo ” System.
4. Stricter enforcement of Leprosy Proclamation.
5. “ Placing ” of sons of chiefs.
6. Conservation of water.

II. FINANCE.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to £306,399, and the expenditure to £294,874, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £11,525.

The balance of assets in excess of liabilities at the 31st March, 1928, was £105,659.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the past five financial years :—

7. The Health Board Enactment.
 8. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) (Amendment No. 1) Enactment.
 9. The Courts (Amendment) Enactment.
 10. The Burials Enactment.
 11. The Drainage Rate Enactment.
 12. The Cattle Registration Enactment.
 13. The Malay Reservations (Amendment) Enactment.
 14. The Pensions (Amendment) Enactment.
 15. The Petroleum (Amendment) Enactment.
8. Rules, Regulations, etc. under the following Enactments were passed during the year:—

The Petroleum Enactment, 1337.

The Customs Enactment, 1343.

The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Enactment, 1341.

The Malay Reservations Enactment, 1340.

The Prisons Enactment, 1346.

The Sanitary Board Enactment, 1334.

The Vagrancy Enactment, 1346.

The Burials Enactment, 1346.

The Labour Code, 1345.

The Motor Cars Enactment, 1343.

III.—LANDS.

9. The revenue for the year A. H. 1346 was \$1,105,670 as compared with \$1,311,558 in A. H. 1345. Comparative figures under the various main heads are given below:—

Heads		Actual 1345	Actual 1346	Estimated 1346
		\$	\$	\$
Premium ...	...	448,503	253,804	373,500
Land Tax and Rent ...	...	655,779	670,214	666,500
Commission ...	...	78,833	80,789	74,900
Registration Fees ...	...	26,098	21,632	25,600
Survey Fees ...	...	52,864	34,879	41,550
Boundary Marks ...	...	5,749	4,141	3,830
Miscellaneous ...	...	43,732	40,211	42,700
TOTAL ...	...	1,311,558	1,105,670	1,228,580

10. The 1346 revenue was below the 1345 revenue by \$205,888, and below the estimate by \$122,910. The decrease is accounted for mainly by the drop (\$194,699) in premium, due generally to the decrease in large alienations, and particularly to the postponement of sales of land in the Gurun auction area. Permanent revenue in the form of rent showed a satisfactory normal increase.

11. Current rent at the beginning of the year stood on the rent-rolls at \$682,644 or \$10,522 more than at the beginning of the preceding year. Rents remitted to the Members of the Ruling House, Penghulus and other privileged persons amounted to \$21,851 or \$53 more than in 1345. Arrears of rent at the end of the year amounted to \$376, shown on the Bandar Bahru rent-rolls. This sum represents defalcations, which were not discovered till the close of the year. The money had actually been paid but was misappropriated by a Clerk. Apart from this, there was a clean sheet of arrears for the second time in succession.

12. The expenditure was \$280,207 against \$261,777 in A. H. 1345 and \$248,456 in A. H. 1344. The increase was mainly under personal emoluments. In Kota Star, the salaries of Penghulus (\$15,116) are shown as a Land Office charge, in other districts as a District Office charge.

13. Only two applications for areas exceeding 50 relongs ($35\frac{1}{2}$ acres) remained undealt with at the end of the year. Applications for areas not exceeding 50 relongs undealt with at the end of the year amounted to 9,344 applications comprising an area of 38,013 acres, as compared with 5,900 applications for 25,021 acres undealt with at the end of the previous year.

14. The number of applications for small areas disposed of was 5,988 against 5,924 in the preceding year. The Land Officers are reported to be somewhat diffident of exercising their newly acquired powers of alienation in Malay Reservations, but it is anticipated that there will be more progress when they have become used to their new duties.

15. The area alienated in the State, exclusive of mining land, is as follows:—

Nature of Title	Number	Area
Final Grants	37,057	346,921 acres
Old Grants	4,079	28,146 ..
Provisional Grants	46,400	179,207 ..
Permits	2,076	7,469 ..
Banchi Sewa (Lots shown on Record of Occupation)	17,564	24,223 ..
Approved applications ...	15,635	58,061 ..
TOTAL 1346 ...	122,811	644,027 acres
TOTAL 1345 ...	119,447	585,201 acres

The area and the number of lots finally surveyed (final grants) are rather more than half and less than a third respectively of the total area and the total number of lots alienated.

16. The number of old grants, permits and *banchi sewa* entries shows a reduction of 829 in numbers—a slow rate of replacement of old titles.

17. The number of titles awaiting engrossment in the Director's Office at the end of the year was 1,792 as compared with 2,313 at the end of the previous year. The issues of Final and Provisional Grants in Land Offices were 3,350 and 1,763 respectively as compared with 4,569 and 2,474 in the preceding year.

18. 533 settlement tracings (survey) comprising 5,202 lots, area 31,187 acres, and 460 tracings (demarkation) comprising 4,110 lots, area 10,603 acres, were settled.

19. Dealings registered in the Land Offices were as follows:—

	Number in 1346	Considera- tion	Com- mission
	\$	\$	\$
Transfers for value	3,909	7,506,754	48,843
Transfers by gift	1,014	219,825	1,891
Charges	3,398	6,951,797	30,053
Miscellaneous Documents ...	3,294	...	...
TOTAL ...	11,615	14,678,376	80,787

III. PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Locust Destruction.—There have been no outbreaks of *voetgangers* during the year and no flying locusts were observed in Basutoland. The campaign against the "Elegant Grasshopper" which was carried out on the Maseru Reserve last year proved successful as these insects have not been nearly so numerous this season.

Reports of damage done to young wheat crops in parts of the Qacha's Nek district by the "Elegant Grasshopper" have been received, but the pest was quickly overcome on the arrival of the migratory storks.

Agricultural Shows.—An amount of £500 was provided for Agricultural Shows which were held at all Government Camps with the exception of Butha Buthe, Peka, and Mokhotlong.

The work of the Agricultural Demonstrators is already bearing fruit and is evinced by the keener interest taken by the people and the higher quality of the exhibits, the Produce Sections at all Shows showing a marked improvement.

Sheep and Goat Sections at all Shows were also better than usual owing to the keenness and co-operation of Scab Inspectors throughout the territory. The results of the Ram bounty Importation Scheme were also apparent.

Donga Prevention and Tree Planting.—The vote for these services was £1,500. Efforts to counter serious soil erosion and to check the growth of existing dongas were continued, several new works being undertaken.

At the close of the year there were some 253,251 trees in the various Government nurseries. During the year, 46,540 trees were issued to natives and others and 6,625 were planted on the various Government reserves.

Seed Wheat Bounty.—An amount of £500 was set aside as a bounty on seed wheat. The bounty was confined to imported seed, but owing to the severe droughts experienced it is feared that very few natives benefited from it.

Agricultural Demonstrators.—Thirteen Demonstrators are now employed in the various parts of the territory. Increasing interest is being taken in their work by the natives, many of whom are purchasing cultivators and planters and the exhibits at the produce sections of the various Shows are proof of the increasing number of converts to better agricultural methods.

General.—The maize and kaffir-corn crops were good. Wheat crops in the lowlands were almost a complete failure, though excellent crops were obtained in the mountain areas.

Among the growing crops a very bad attack of "Cut Worm" in mealies is responsible for many thin fields and poor prospects, as many natives had to sow their lands as many as three times owing to the ravages of this pest.

V.—SURVEYS.

FIELD OUTPUT AND COST.

24. *Theodolite Surveys.* 129,437 chains (1,618 miles) were measured at a cost (including supervision and control) of 72 cents a chain as against 129,346 chains (1,617 miles) and 71 cents a chain in 1345.

5,747 original lots covering 23,869 acres were surveyed at a cost of \$16.49 per lot and \$3.97 per acre as against 5,040 lots covering 36,009 acres at a cost of \$16.94 per lot and \$2.37 per acre in 1345.

461 sub-divisions were surveyed.

25. *Demarcation.* 114,775 chains (1,435 miles) were measured at a cost of 33 cents per chain as against 104,406 chains (1,305 miles) at a cost of 36 cents per chain in 1345.

5,373 lots covering 22,481 acres were demarcated at a cost of \$6.67 per lot and \$1.59 per acre as against 4,628 lots (covering 12,499 acres) at a cost of \$8.18 per lot and \$3.03 per acre in 1345.

26. The Federated Malay States Topographical Department plane-tabled an area of about 206 square miles, and ran control traverses over an area of about 345 miles.

OFFICE OUTPUT.

27. 5,079 grants and 801 provisional titles were forwarded to the Land Office as against 4,778 and 1,483 in the previous year. Settlement tracings for 5,809 lots were forwarded to the Land Office as against 4,809 in the previous year.

A considerable amount of work was done in the preparation of plans for other departments.

PROGRESS.

28. Approximately 112,996 lots with an area of 666,850 acres have been located and mapped.

29. Requisitions for survey of 95,895 lots have been received from the Lands and Mines Departments. 48,572 lots have been surveyed and completed in the Office. 9,802 are in action.

30. Approximately 46,309 final and 28,543 provisional titles, mining leases and Reserve certificates have been prepared and forwarded for issue.

HEALTH.

31. The general health of the Staff showed a considerable improvement on the previous year. In the Office the percentage of medical leave dropped among Computers from 3.53 per cent to 1.81 per cent, and in the Field among Surveyors from 2.47 per cent to 1.30 per cent per hundred working days.

STAFF.

32. Mr. W. J. C. Stevens was in charge of the Department throughout the year. He was assisted by three European Assistant Superintendents, two European Surveyors, 30 Asiatic Surveyors, and 18 Assistant Surveyors, and the usual Office Staff.

33. Expenditure amounted to \$400,128, of which \$57,571 was spent in Topographical Survey work.

34. Revenue actually collected amounted to \$8,616. The surveys done would, at schedule rates, have amounted to \$180,823. In Kedah survey and demarcation fees are not charged separately but are merged in the premium.

VI.—AGRICULTURE.

35. The total area reported to be planted with padi was 174,236 acres compared with 172,026 acres in the previous year. The total yield is estimated at 53,236,162 gantangs (gallons), which is 3,037,851 gantangs less than in the previous year. The decrease is accounted for by a drought which occurred after planting had taken place, and by scarcity of cattle for ploughing owing to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

36. The trial ground of 3½ acres at Telok Kechai, Kuala Kedah Road, planted with eight species of padi produced 1349 gantangs in 1345 of which 449 gantangs were distributed to padi planters, and the remainder was sold. The crop for 1346 amounted to 1,360 gantangs.

37. Inspection of coconut plantations was carried out and permission given to fell 550 trees. 2,625 new trees were planted.

38. In the districts of Kulim and Bandar Bahru mouldy rot gave some trouble among small holdings, but the disease was well under control before the end of the year.

39. Cotton seed purchased from India was distributed among the peasants for experimental purposes, but the results were not promising. It was found that the leaves of the plants were seriously attacked by caterpillars (ulat).

40. An experiment was made in manuring tapioca plants on a small plot of land at Jabi, but it is too early to decide whether the experiment was successful.

There were 14 tapioca mills working in Kedah throughout the year.

41. Coffee was planted by Chinese on small areas of land in Bandar Bahru District, and at Guar Chempedak and Bukit Lada.

42. Total expenditure amounted to \$18,754.

43. Raja Mohamed, Agricultural Officer, was in charge of the Department throughout the year, and was assisted by two Assistant Agricultural Officers, both Kedah Malays, who had been trained in Kuala Lumpur.

VII.—MINES DEPARTMENT.

44. The total revenue collected from Mines in 1346 was \$65,696 as compared with \$81,393 in 1345 and an estimate of \$66,350. The main decrease was in export duty, and was due to the fall in the price of tin, which averaged \$128.50 as compared with \$150.75 in the previous year.

45. Expenditure amounted to \$8,952 against \$8,854 in 1345 and an estimate of \$9,227.

46. The export of mineral ores in tons was as follows:—

	1346	1345
Tin ore	395	401 (corrected figure)
Wolfram	31	96

47. The number of coolies employed at the end of the year was 1,119 as compared with 1,129 at the end of 1345—of this total 407 were employed on open cast, 266 on underground and 446 on hydraulic mining.

48. A dredge is being erected at Karangan, and is expected to commence work soon.

49. The area alienated for mining stood at the end of the year at 6,199 acres.

50. Twelve mining applications were received, of which two were approved and ten refused.

51. Fifteen applications for prospecting licences were received, of which twelve were refused or withdrawn. No prospecting licence issued during the year.

52. Mr. H. C. Eckhardt was Superintendent of Mines throughout the year.

VIII.—FORESTS.

RESERVES.

53. Draft preliminary notifications to reserve fourteen areas on the mainland, having a total area of 363,000 acres were in the hands of the Director of Lands at the close of the year. The reservation of these areas has been approved by the State Council at various times during the past twenty years, but constitution under the provisions of the Forests Enactment (No. 9 of 1345) is now necessary.

54. The water catchment areas of all townships with the exception of Kulim are included in reserves and a ruling was issued that no timber exploitation should be carried out in such areas.

55. Ulu Muda and Padang Trap reserves approved by the State Council have still to be demarcated, but it is estimated that the total area on the mainland approved as reserved forest is about 592,000 acres or 31 per cent. Most of this area is at present of little use, only one-fifth being within three miles of road, railway or navigable river.

On the Langkawi group of islands 61,900 acres approximately have been approved as reserved forest.

EXPLOITATION.

56. The steady demand for timber which continued throughout 1345 was not maintained, and at the close of the year dealers had large stocks in hand. The out-turn of timber and firewood amounted to 27,328 and 14,995 tons respectively as against 33,000 and 38,000 in the previous year. The out-turn of charcoal amounted to 18,836 tons, showing an increase of 1,836 tons. Owing to a fall in the price of rubber and the subsequent cutting down of expenses and possibly also the increasing use of reinforced concrete in building operation, there was little demand for timber at the end of the year.

57. In Langkawi it was found that mangrove forests were being over exploited, licences were cancelled and the output fell from 18,016 to 1,064 tons.

58. Revenue collected amounted to \$118,078 and expenditure to \$59,071, the corresponding figures in 1345 were \$139,146 and \$62,476.

59. Mr. W. M. E. Martin was in charge of the Department till 10th Rejab, 1346 (3rd January, 1928) when he was relieved by Mr. A. B. S. Boswell.

IX.—COURTS.

60. The Court of Appeal sat twice during the year and disposed of 8 civil appeals and 4 criminal appeals.

61. The First Division of the High Court decided 68 civil and 30 criminal appeals, and in its original jurisdiction dealt with 9 civil and 8 criminal cases.

62. The Second Division Court decided 331 civil and 90 criminal cases, and 119 civil and 59 criminal appeals.

63. Appendix 'E' shows the number of cases heard in the Magistrates' and District Office Courts during the year.

64. Mr. Franklyn Robinson acted as First Division Judge till 3rd Rejab (27th December, 1927) when Mr. W. H. Dinsmore resumed the duties of his appointment on his return from leave. Tuan Syed Mansur Aljafree and Tunku Mansur carried out the duties of Chief Malay Judge and Second Malay Judge respectively throughout the year.

65. 1,194 cases were decided in the Sharaiah Courts, and 85 were carried over to 1347.

The Sharaiah Courts, of which there are eleven in the State, consist of a Kathi or Assistant Kathi, and hear and determine suits between Mohammedans concerning marriage, divorce and maintenance.

X.—POLICE.

66. The strength of the Force at the end of the year was 758, consisting of 6 Europeans, 652 Malays, 68 Sikhs, 18 Chinese, 13 Indians and 1 Siamese. 70 Malay recruits and 3 Sikh recruits were enlisted during the year. No difficulty was experienced in getting Malay recruits who could read and write.

67. Discipline was satisfactory. 567 offences were proved and dealt with as compared with 836 in the previous year.

The health of the Force was good.

68. Firearms registered numbered 5,326 against 5,080 in the previous year.

69. The registration of vehicles was carried out by the Department—2,537 motor vehicles were registered as compared with 2,364 in the previous year.

70. 34 prosecutions were instituted by the Inspector of Weights and Measures.

71. 12 cases of murder were reported and investigated against 19 in the previous year—of these 5 were undiscovered. There were 3 reports of culpable homicide, all discovered, and 4 reports of offence of causing death by a rash act, of which three were admitted and discovered.

12 gang robberies and 1 gang robbery with murder were reported, a decrease of 5 compared with 1345—of these only three were discovered. There were 18 robberies against 16 in the previous year, of these ten were discovered. 85 reports of illicit gaming were made and 84 were discovered.

On the whole the year's record as regards crime is satisfactory, but discovery in case of gang robberies is poor. Most of the gang robberies were committed in North Kedah.

The increase in the number of patients was 10. There was a decrease in the number of those re-admitted of 3, a decrease of 19 in those who died, a decrease of 24 of those who deserted, and there was a happy increase of 22 of those who were discharged. So that the increase of the population at the end of the year is not entirely accounted for by the increase of the number of admittances.

It will be noted that, whilst the number of deaths amongst the males last year was double that of the females, this year the proportion is as three to two. The number of desertions has decreased by more than two thirds, which would seem to show that the inhabitants are more or less satisfied with their surroundings.

As has been mentioned before, the increase in the number of those discharged is a testimony of the good work which is being done by the Medical Officer.

IX. EDUCATION.

The new system, by which is meant the re-classification of the schools in the territory and the enlargement of the Inspectorate, has now been in operation for a full year and it is consequently possible profitably to examine some of its results.

Schools were divided at the beginning of 1928 into Elementary (Grades I-VI) and Intermediate (Grades I-VI and Standards IV-VI). Previously all schools had been allowed to teach up to Standard VI. The effect of this new classification is apparent in Tables I, III, and IV. The increase in pupils has fallen to 196; the number of large schools has increased by 16 and many others have decreased in size.

The average number of pupils on the roll has dropped by over 300 in comparison with the previous year, which shows that many pupils who had taken Standard III did not continue their studies.

It was found that complaints were made of the insufficiency of Intermediate Schools, and at the meeting of the Board of Advice on Education in November it was decided to increase their number by eight. The building of the Government Intermediate Schools at Maseru and Mafeteng is progressing satisfactorily and it is expected that they will be opened at the beginning of the third quarter. These Schools will admit Standard IV-VI pupils only and it is hoped that they will relieve the congestion in the Mission Intermediate Schools.

Since many native parents wished their children to continue their education above Standard III without necessarily taking the full intermediate course, it was decided that in 1929 200 selected Elementary Schools should be allowed to teach up to Standard IV.

The effect of the enlargement of the Inspectorate has been seen in the number of inspections carried out during the year (650 as compared with 340 in 1927 and 270 in 1926). Teachers are being shown how to make the best of their abilities and resources, the syllabus is more carefully followed, and lazy dishonest work is becoming rarer. No similar advance can be reported in the school buildings and equipment which on the whole are still distinctly poor owing to the impecuniosity of the Missions.

The annual reports of the Mission Institutions relate of satisfactory progress. Leloaleng has had an exceptionally good year, but the agricultural course is not popular with the boys. At Morija, on the other hand, the agricultural section is in a more flourishing state, a number of pupils being engaged in this branch of work. Morija has also had very satisfactory results in the external examinations. Reports from Cana are excellent and at Thabana Morena many awards for industrial work were gained at the camp exhibitions. Agriculture is making great strides at Masite, and Maseru (St. Catherine's) has had a satisfactory year.

The new bursary system, by which the sons of poor and deserving parents who take good places in the annual Standard VI examination are given bursaries at Morija, Roma, and Masite, is proving its worth to the full. There is no doubt that in this way the right type of candidate is being selected, the type likely to take the good in higher native education and leave the bad.

STATISTICS.

The average attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now 34,330 and the number of scholars on the roll is 46,606.

The following table shows the average attendance of pupils during the last ten years :—

Table I.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Average Attendance.</i>		<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
1919	...	22,556	1,396	—
1920	...	23,479	932	—
1921	...	22,586	—	893
1922	...	23,424	838	—
1923	...	26,124	2,700	—
1924	...	29,267	3,143	—
1925	...	30,005	738	—
1926	...	33,074	3,069	—
1927	...	34,134	1,060	—
1928	...	34,330	196	—

85. The Vagrants' Camp was opened in the month of Safar (August) and was placed in charge of the Superintendent of Prisons.

The total admission for the year was 103, and 28 remained at the end of the year. The main form of employment was vegetable gardening.

The expenditure for the year was \$8,261.

86. Mr. S. E. Dennys was in charge of the Department till 12th February, 1928 (20th Shaaban, 1346) when he went on leave, his place being taken by Mr. H. Fraser. The Superintendent was assisted by a European Chief Gaoler seconded from the Federated Malay States Prisons Department.

XII.—MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

87. Government Hospitals were maintained at Alor Star, Sungei Patani, Kulim, Kuala Ketil, Serdang, Bandar Bharu, Baling and Langkawi. 24,432 in-patients were treated as compared with 21,472 in the previous year. The percentage of deaths was 8.13 as compared with 8.57, and excluding deaths which occurred within 48 hours of admission was 5.64.

88. Out-door Dispensaries were maintained at Alor Star Town, Changloon, Yen, Sik, Padang Serai and Mahang, and 21,354 cases were treated. Motor Ambulance Dispensaries were maintained at Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim, and 22,284 cases were treated. The Lady Medical Officer paid weekly visits to several out-lying villages in North Kedah to attend to women and children.

The Dispensary at Kota Kuala Muda was closed down at the end of 1345, and the Dispensaries at Padang Serai and Mahang at the beginning of 1346. These places are now visited regularly by Travelling Dispensaries.

89. Admissions for Malaria amounted to 10,016 as compared with 7,984 in the previous year. The periodic rise in Malaria cases occurred earlier, and lasted longer than previously, April till July is the actual period. There was an increase in the number of admissions for Pneumonia and Ankylostomiasis.

90. The numbers treated for Dysentery shows a satisfactory decrease: Amoebic Dysentery, 431 cases with 113 deaths as compared with 759 cases and 203 deaths in the previous year, and Bacillary Dysentery, 465 cases with 147 deaths against 485 cases with 116 deaths in 1345.

91. Anti-rabic treatment was available at Alor Star Hospital. During the year 36 cases were admitted for dog-bite, of these 25 were found to have been bitten by rabid dogs and received anti-rabic serum injections. The treatment was successful in all cases.

92. Maternity and Child welfare work was carried on by the Lady Medical Officer at the Alor Star Hospital and Town Dispensary, and visits were paid to patients' houses.

93. 172 Kedah patients were under treatment at Tanjong Rambutan Mental Hospital at the end of the year as compared with 149 patients at the end of the previous year.

94. The number of lepers undergoing treatment was 69 at Pulau Jerejak and 9 at Pangkor Laut, and 5 were temporarily detained pending transfer in Kedah Hospitals, showing an excess of 5 over the previous year's figures.

95. *Infectious Diseases.* Four cases of Cholera were recorded in the first week of the year, but these were part of the small epidemic which was reported on in 1345. Three cases of small-pox were reported, two at Sungei Kechil Ulu, and one at Kodiang. Three cases of Tropical Typhus were reported for the first time in Kedah. Two of these were European Assistants on a rubber estate in South Kedah, and the other case came from Yen village. Serological tests carried out by the Medical Research Institute, Kuala Lumpur, confirmed the diagnosis.

96. *Vital Statistics.* The population of the State is estimated to be 399,864. On this figure the birth rate was 32.68 per mille and the death rate 28.57.

97. Anti-Malarial work was carried out in the Sanitary Board areas of Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim.

98. On most of the large estates anti-malarial work is efficiently carried out, but on the smaller estates there is room for much improvement, and it is hoped that the recently appointed Estates Health Board will effect an improvement in the health conditions of these estates.

99. The revenue collected by the Department was \$113,282 as compared with \$127,348 in the previous year. The chief reason for this decrease is the large number of Tamil coolies admitted as paupers.

X. LABOUR.

The following figures give the number of passes issued to natives to leave the territory for labour purposes during the last two years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Mines.</i>	<i>Railway Construction.</i>	<i>Agriculture.</i>	<i>Miscellaneous Labour.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1927	24,880	173	9,507	23,407	57,967
1928	25,523	284	7,353	20,718	53,878

XI. VETERINARY.

ANTHRAX.

Thirty-six outbreaks of anthrax occurred during the year, being eight more than last year.

The policy of keeping all transport oxen inoculated on the western roads, particularly in the vicinity of anthrax-infected outspans which are known to exist, is being continued and altogether 43,911 animals have been inoculated. All inoculations have been carried out by trained members of the police force, and the ready co-operation of Assistant Commissioners and police officers in this matter has been much appreciated.

No anthrax was diagnosed amongst equines or sheep, and the absence of anthrax in sheep grazing on well-known infected pastures is rather remarkable, as experimentally the sheep is very susceptible to the anthrax bacillus.

EQUINE MANGE.

As anticipated in the last report, the position of equine mange in the territory has greatly improved, and it is now a rare sight to see a case of mange.

The erection of more dipping tanks in the mountain areas has largely contributed to this end, and it is hoped that this disease will soon be a thing of the past.

During the year, 5,572 animals were treated for mange, but it is believed that many of these animals were suffering from lice and allied infections, the natives being educated to bring any horses suffering from loss of hair or itching for treatment immediately.

Last year 14,202 animals were treated, which clearly demonstrates the progress made.

SHEEP SCAB.

The past year has proved the most difficult since the scab campaign was brought into force. Owing to the severe drought, the spring and early summer of this year were almost the worst on record for sheep, with the result that many animals were in the advanced stages of poverty, rendering them very susceptible to the ravages of the scab mite. Flocks developing scab under these conditions proved very difficult to treat, as it was often found impracticable

to dip them owing to their poverty ; as a result, hand-dressing had to be resorted to, and experience has shown that this form of treatment is never satisfactory.

Associated with these severe grazing troubles there has been a great tendency for sheep to stray from infected areas to the lowlands in search of better veld, and this has been responsible for many serious recrudescences of scab in areas where none has existed for one, two, or three years.

The difficulties encountered this year have very forcibly demonstrated that scab can never be eradicated from the territory until the mountain areas have been tanked, and all evidence goes to show that there has been a most serious mortality owing to scab in un-tanked mountain areas.

Very real progress has, however, been made in this direction, and the Quthing, Mohale's Hoek, and Mafeteng districts have been completely equipped with dipping tanks during the year, and it is hoped that before the advent of the next winter the Maseru and Qacha's Nek districts will be in the same position.

The most serious factor in the scab campaign is the inefficiency of the native staff, many of the native dipping supervisors who have been in Government employment for three or four years—men who know their work thoroughly—proving the worst offenders. All of them appear to be subject to a peculiar type of mental lapse during which they are capable of the most serious neglect of duty ; recognising this, schools of instruction have been started and now take place at the end of each month. The Principal Veterinary Officer has drawn up a complete list of questions and the European scab inspector, when paying the native staff, puts them through this catechism, and there is reason to hope that this may improve matters.

The dismissal of a trained dipping supervisor is a great blow to the Department, as it takes several weeks of intense work to render the average Mosuto fit to take charge of a dipping tank.

During the year, twenty-six contracts for the erection of dipping tanks in the mountain areas were entered into, and some eleven tanks have been completed. All the tanks contracted for are situated at any altitude from 7,000 to 10,000 feet and the building period lasts only six months owing to frost, but the organisation of this work has never been better than it now is and it is hoped to complete all the contracts in the prescribed period. The principle of arranging for the contractor to take over the pack transport of all material from wagon-head to the site is a great improvement and has considerably reduced the worries of the scab inspector.

In view of the unreliability of the native dipping supervisors, the Veterinary Department has for some time past been in search of a dip that could be relied upon to cure scab without hand dressing as it is conceded that such a dip would considerably increase the possibilities of the complete eradication of scab from the territory.

In co-operation with Messrs. Cooper & Nephews, Ltd., a large experiment has been carried out in the mountain area to test a new dip which they have recently evolved and which they claim to be very efficient in the destruction of the scab mite. Some 15,000 sheep were treated with this new dip, 50 per cent. of the flocks being scab-infected, and no hand-dressing, other than the treatment of the ears and orbital fossae, was resorted to. These sheep will be subjected to a table inspection in March, and if, as the firm claims, this dip will clean them without hand-dressing, it will be of enormous value and will be adopted throughout the territory.

BASTARD SHEEP.

The campaign against the farming of bastard sheep in the territory has been much more successful than was anticipated. The propaganda work carried out by the European Scab Inspectors has been very energetically and efficiently done. They have preached the castration of all bastard rams and the consumption of bastard sheep, and the results have been surprising.

Coinciding with the destruction of the bastard ram, it was thought that the time was ripe to make an attempt to import good Merino rams and so enable flock-owners to purchase rams of the right type at a low price.

The Basutoland Chamber of Commerce were invited to co-operate with the scheme, and it was finally decided to allocate £500 for this work. Rams were to be purchased by traders after having been passed by the Veterinary Department, and no ram was to be sold to the native for more than £2, the Government paying the trader £1 on the sale of each ram.

Many good rams were imported, some of them when clipped produced fleeces of £1 in value, which meant that the native was able to get a good ram for £1. At the outset of the scheme rams sold readily, but eventually many traders were left with rams on their hands, and out of the £500 allocated only £329 has been spent.

This experiment has been a great disappointment as, given the whole-hearted support of the Basuto, an annual importation of 500 good Merino rams would revolutionise the quality of our wool and neutralise the ill-effects of incestuous breeding that takes place in the haphazard and careless methods of the average Mosuto farmer.

STUD.

The continuance of severe drought conditions has militated against stud work this season. There was a general absence of green grass in the spring and early summer, and mares were in poor condition.

Altogether 134 mares have been covered during the season and 67 proved to be in foal.

XV.—LABOUR.

117. As returns are prepared in accordance with the English calendar, the statistics contained in this report cover the period 1st July, 1927, to 30th June, 1928 (*i.e.*, 1st Moharram, 1346 to 11th Moharram, 1347).

118. The total number of labourers employed at the end of the year was 48,614 as against 65,053 in the previous year. South Indians decreased by 20 per cent, Chinese by 42 per cent and Malay and Javanese by 25 per cent.

119. During the year 9,596 State-aided Indian immigrants arrived in Kedah, 7,851 adults and 1,745 minors as compared with 18,376 adults and 3,769 minors in 1345 and 12,898 adults and 2,540 minors in 1344. 6,907 labourers were recruited by licensed Kanganies and 2,689 were voluntary emigrants from India.

120. Local engagements of South Indians, Chinese and Malays amounted to 40,526, 7,633 and 7,133 respectively as compared with 37,180, 10,364 and 10,963 in 1345.

121. Wages remained at same rates as in the previous year; 45-50 cents for men and 35 to 40 cents for women field workers. The minimum wages paid by Government Departments since 1st January, 1928 (8th Rejab, 1346) are 50 cents for men and 40 cents for women.

Cost of living shows little or no change.

122. The death rate among all labourers was 17.78 per mille as compared with 14.27 in the previous year. Among Indian labourers it was 22.48 as against 20.41.

The increase in the death rate was in some measure due to a wave of pneumonia and to a higher mortality from ankylostomiasis, while Malaria accounted for more deaths than in 1345.

123. The Health Board Enactment was passed during the year and a Board was appointed and commenced preliminary work.

124. 207 complaints were registered during the year, of these 116 were complaints of non-payment of wages on due date, mostly against petty employers: almost all of these cases were settled departmentally.

Periodical visits to estates were paid by the Protector of Labour and Labour Inspector, and thirty seven orders were issued under the Labour Code.

125. There were 61 Tamil Vernacular Schools on estates in Kedah, of which only two were admitted to the privileges of the Tamil Estate School Code.

126. Captain N. Jones, M.C., was Protector of Labour throughout the year.

XVI.—CHINESE PROTECTORATE.

127. Seven societies were registered and eight were exempted from registration during the year. One society was closed by order of the State Council on the recommendation of the Protector of Chinese for allowing its premises to be used as a common gaming house.

128. There were three prosecutions early in the year under the Societies Enactment, eighteen Chinese being convicted of acting as members of an unlawful (Triad) Society, and one being convicted of assisting in the management. One Chinese was convicted of being in possession of Triad Society documents. Five Chinese were banished on the recommendation of the Protector of Chinese for assisting in the management of an unlawful society. As a result of this and also of banishments recommended by the Police Department, secret societies gave no further trouble.

129. The usual work of the supervision of Chinese women and girls was carried out. In all 28 women and girls were admitted to the Home during the year, of whom seven remained in the Home at the end of the year and one is being maintained in the *Po Leung Kuk*, Penang. Three girls were married from the Home.

130. 87 enquiries under section 72 of the Labour Enactment concerning wages and conditions of employment were settled.

131. The Protector of Chinese was an Assistant Superintendent of Monopolies and Customs and rendered general assistance to that Department.

132. Mr. G. R. Sykes was Protector of Chinese throughout the year.

XVII.—SANITARY BOARDS.

133. Every district in the State has a Sanitary Board with the exception of Padang Trap district with Head-quarters at Kuala Nerang, and a Sanitary Board is now being arranged for this district.

134. The revenue collected by the Kota Star Board amounted to \$62,019, as compared with \$58,786 in the previous year—a further sum of \$32,516 on account of Motor Car registration and Drivers' Licences was collected by the Police, and credited to Sanitary Board Revenue under "Registration of Vehicles".

135. Expenditure amounted to \$61,794, as compared with \$65,710 in the previous year.

136. Six new shop houses were completed in Alor Star Town, and plans for 10 first-class shop houses in Jalan Raja were passed.

137. Improvement schemes for areas lying between Lorong Kechil and Jalan Penjara Lama, and between Jalan Pekan Melayu and Jalan Pekan China were approved by the Government, and proceedings were commenced for acquisition of the land.

138. The filling and metalling of a portion of the 66 foot road on the North side of Jalan Langgar, and the necessary side roads and lanes to give access to ten shop lots sold in 1344, were well in hand at the end of the year.

139. The Kuala Muda Sanitary Board collected a total revenue of \$57,827 as compared with \$56,708 in the previous year. Expenditure amounted to \$35,722 as against \$34,629.

140. Plans were passed for 29 shop houses in Sungei Patani and 14 shop houses in Gurun Village. 27 shop houses and a new distillery were completed in Sungei Patani.

141. The sanitation of the village of Gurun, Bedong, Semiling, Sungei Lalang and Kota Kuala Muda was controlled by the Board and building was controlled at Tikam Batu Village.

142. A water supply for Gurun was almost ready at the end of the year.

143. Kulim District Sanitary Board collected revenue amounting to \$35,579 as compared with \$37,599 in the previous year. The expenditure amounted to \$31,533 as compared with \$23,363 in 1345.

144. Sanitation at Kulim, Lunas, Padang Serai and Junjong and building at Sungei Karangan were controlled by the Board.

145. The Baling District Sanitary Board collected \$4,604 revenue and spent \$4,758. The Baling Town water supply was completed before the end of the year.

146. Kubang Pasu, Bandar Bharu, Yen and Langkawi districts also have Sanitary Boards.

XVIII.—MONOPOLIES AND CUSTOMS.

147. The total revenue collected, exclusive of Chandu Monopoly, amounted to \$2,925,265 as compared with \$3,597,764 in the previous year.

The main differences in amounts of duty collected in 1345 and 1346 are shown below:—

Export Duties				1346	1345
				\$	\$
Fish	...	...	...	59,701	85,826
Rice and Padi	...	...	...	173,702	156,513
Rubber	...	...	...	959,300	1,561,590
Tapioca	...	...	...	40,217	58,910
Tin	...	...	...	60,583	74,453

Import Duties				1346	1345
				\$	\$
Liquor...	...	...	...	285,092	334,663
Tobacco	...	...	...	723,370	731,452
Petroleum	...	...	...	141,650	114,377

148. Import duty on liquors and tobacco was collected on behalf of the Government by the Assistant Superintendent, Government Monopolies, Straits Settlements, in Penang.

149. Out of 54 cases taken to Court by the Customs Department, twelve were for offences in connection with rubber: eleven convictions were recorded with fines amounting to \$19,350 and confiscation of 70 pikuls of rubber.

OPIUM MONOPOLY.

150. The amount realised on sales of chandu (prepared opium) was \$2,664,380. The price paid to the Straits Government for this chandu was \$508,125.

The revenue realised was \$573,148 less than in the previous year.

151. The amount of chandu sold amounted to 200,278 tahils as compared with 242,877 tahils in the previous year.

One tahl equals one and one-third ounce avoirdupois.

152. No licences were issued for smoking saloons, but one Government Smoking Saloon was opened at the beginning of the year and maintained at each of the three most important towns in the State, Alor Star, Sungei Patani and Kulim. Retail sale of chandu was as in the previous year conducted by the Department.

EXCISE.

153. Three Licensing Boards were appointed by the State Council to control the issue or renewal of liquor-shop and toddy-shop licences in North Kedah, Central Kedah and South Kedah respectively.

The system of inviting tenders for the right to open public toddy-shops has been abandoned, and the Boards now appoint licensees and fix the amount of licence fee annually.

154. Two licences were granted for Distilleries, one at Sungei Patani and one at Kulim. New brick buildings were erected and are now in use.

155. Tunku Kassim was in charge of the Department, except for two months when he was on leave, and Tunku Mohamed, Auditor General, acted for him.

XIX.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

156. A comparison of the business done during the past three years is as follows:—

	1344	1345	1346
	\$	\$	\$
Telegrams received, forwarded and transmitted ...	159,445	148,798	135,499
Letters, papers and parcels posted and delivered...	2,665,887	3,346,887	3,429,559
Value of Money Order transactions ...	535,789	720,550	747,706
Saving Bank Deposits ...	19,040	27,696	21,519

157. The revenue collected, including revenue from telegrams and telephone, amounted to \$126,071 as against \$151,606 in 1345 and \$103,520 in 1344.

158. The expenditure amounted to \$366,229 made up of personal emoluments \$117,637, annually recurrent \$20,535 and special expenditure on remodelling telephone service \$228,057.

159. A large amount of material was purchased from England and work was commenced on new telephone trunk line along the railway reserve from Alor Star to the Colony boundary.

160. Mr. S. Asirvadam, Superintendent Posts and Telegraphs, who retired at the end of Safar had during his 19 years of service been in charge of Postal and Telegraph and Telephone work. On his retirement the Senior Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Penang, with the permission of the Secretary for Postal Affairs, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, undertook the general supervision of Telegraph and telephone work in Kedah pending the appointment of a Telegraph Engineer for Kedah. Arrangements were made for sending additional Malay and Chinese youths to undergo training in Telegraph and telephone work in Kuala Lumpur.

Che Mohamed Arshad, Assistant Superintendent, was appointed to act as Superintendent, Posts and Telegraphs.

XX.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

161. The total estimated expenditure including revotes and special warrants amounted to \$3,628,214.

The actual expenditure was \$2,442,482.

The unexpended total is accounted for as follows:—

			\$
(a) Works deferred	..	..	87,400
(b) Unexpended balances on works in progress at end of 1346	..	..	975,903
(c) Savings on Estimates	..	..	122,429
			\$1,185,732

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

ROADS, STREETS, BRIDGES.

162. 335.33 miles of metalled roads were upkept during the year at an average cost of \$1,658.55 per mile as compared with \$1,739.90 in the previous year. 112¼ miles of unmetalled roads were upkept at a cost of \$23,783.

CANALS.

163. 246 miles of canals were maintained including 33 miles of irrigation channels in Langkawi.

BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

164. The gross estimated value of buildings was \$4,582,250. These buildings were maintained at a cost of \$111,142 being 2.57 per cent of their value. 48 buildings were added during the year at a cost of \$192,791.

\$56,559 was spent on additions and improvements to Government buildings.

EXTRAORDINARY SERVICES.

ROADS, STREETS, BRIDGES.

165. The Tunjang Station approach road from the Perlis road, 1¾ miles long, was completed.

One mile of the Weng-Sok Road was metalled and timber bridges were completed to the 7th mile.

The widening and metalling of the main road from Kota Sarang Semut to Gua Chempadak were completed and 8¼ miles of road were widened and metalled between Lunas and Titi Karangan.

The deviation of the Kelang Lama-Kelang Bahru road between miles 2 and 7 was completed as far as 5½ miles.

11 reinforced concrete bridges and 32 culverts were constructed to replace timber bridges.

CANALS.

166. In the Southern area, the Sungei Sedaka Canal and feeders were completed except for a few minor details. The Sungei Limau Canal and feeders were also completed. The Sungei Daun Canal was put in hand during the year and four miles of canal have been widened, deepened and graded. These three canals with the Sungei Dulang which was completed prior to 1346 serve an area of about 41,000 relongs.

In the Northern area, progress was made on the Sungei Jitra, Alor Changileh Scheme, the New Canal, Lanah Buloh Canal and the Ayer Itam Canal.

167. Reconnaissance work was confined to the Kuala Muda area. The survey of the area between Sungei Patani and Kuala Muda is well in hand and work on the area between the Sungei Merbok and Kedah Peak is practically complete.

BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

168. Four permanent Vernacular Schools, four sets of cooly lines, two out-station Post Offices, 3 sets of quarters for Customs Out-door Officers, a new Rest House at Kulim and various Hospital buildings were completed.

The Alor Star Post Office and Human Quarantine Station, Padang Besar, were nearing completion, and progress was made on the Office Dalam, Alor Star, Istana, Anak Bukit Gardens, Police Offices, Sungei Patani, and 4 European Officers' quarters at Alor Star and Hospital buildings.

WATER SUPPLIES.

169. The pipe line to Kota Sarang Semut from Sala was completed and water laid on.

Pipes were purchased for the water supply for Gurun village.

The service reservoir at Baling was completed and a 4 inch main laid to the town.

No work was done with regard to investigations for increasing the Alor Star water supply beyond taking gaugings of the Sungei Wang Prah pending the completion of the Topographical Survey of the Bukit Perangin area.

STAFF.

170. Mr. W. J. Smith acted as State Engineer till 2nd Zulkaedah (22nd April) when he was relieved by Major G. H. Richards who is the substantive holder of the appointment.

XXI.—PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

171. Owing to the new Salary Scheme for Subordinates there were fewer changes of personnel during the year, and better work was turned out.

172. It is not at present possible to dispense altogether with outside help for printing Government publications. New machines are, however, now on order, and it is hoped that when they have been installed the Department will be able to cope with all Government orders.

173. The Government Gazette is now published monthly, but it is anticipated that before the end of 1347 it will be possible to publish a fortnightly issue.

174. The total expenditure of the Department amounted to \$60,685 and revenue to \$1,964.

XXII.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES DEPARTMENT.

175. During the year nineteen rural credit societies operated, an increase of one over the previous year; of these only five were registered, but at the end of the year seven more were approved for registration. There were three credit and loan societies as in the previous year, and of these only one was registered.

176. Mr. Cavendish, Director of Co-operation, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, visited Kedah in the month of Rejab (January, 1928) and attended meetings of twelve societies and was pleased with the progress that had been made since his last visit.

177. The total sum paid in by members of societies up to the end of 1346 amounted to \$14,869, and loans had been granted during 1345 and 1346 to a total of \$32,567.

178. One of the rural credit societies opened an account with the local Bank.

179. The co-operative societies are, I think, making steady progress. Several of the District Officers have presided at meetings and shown their sympathy with the movement.

180. Che Abdulrahman bin Haji Samaudin was in charge of the Department throughout the year. An Assistant Registrar was appointed during the year.

XXIII.—MARINE.

181. The revenue collected under all headings amounted to \$38,507 as compared with \$36,240 in the previous year.

182. The establishment of the Department was increased by the appointment of an Officer in charge of Fisheries in Kuala Muda district and Inspector of Fisheries at Langkawi. The former Officer took over the duties of boat registration formerly carried out by the Police in Bandar Bharu district and the District Officer at Baling.

183. The expenditure of the Department amounted to \$34,751, including the maintenance of light-houses and Motor Launches "Langkawi" and "Lady Nell" and the work of recording Trade Statistics.

184. The fishing industry of which the chief centres are Kuala Kedah and Kuala Merbok had a prosperous year.

185. Inche Ismail bin Haji Jaafar, Harbour Master, was in charge of the Department throughout the year.

XXIV.—TRADE.

186. The gross value of exports for the year was \$28,509,759 and of imports \$9,280,175. The corresponding figures for the previous year were \$43,090,007 and \$10,203,306. The following is a summary of the Import and Export returns for the three past years:—

				Import.	Export.
A. Live Animals, food, drinks, tobacco ...	1344	5,550,386	3,528,636		
	1345	5,910,328	6,997,258		
	1346	5,271,997	6,315,361		
B. Raw materials ...	1344	576,123	46,674,646		
	1345	451,073	35,914,404		
	1346	456,272	21,731,261		
C. Totally or mainly manu- factured articles ...	1344	4,310,122	366,387		
	1345	3,811,925	387,345		
	1346	3,548,906	463,137		

187. The total value of tobacco and cigarettes imported was \$1,542,888, of sugar \$586,972, of piece goods \$820,677 and of petroleum \$622,404. All these items show a decrease below the previous year's figures except "Tobacco and Cigarettes".

188. The value of the principal exports for the past three years is as under:—

				1344	1345	1346
				₹	₹	₹
Rubber ...	...	45,390,867	31,487,489	20,378,183		
Padi and Rice ...	...	940,225	2,568,639	2,951,666		
Fish ...	...	325,258	601,911	431,241		
Tapioca ...	...	839,018	1,751,700	121,489		
Tin Ore ...	...	682,342	477,999	572,278		

XXV.—GENERAL.

189. His Excellency the High Commissioner, Sir Hugh Clifford, G.C.M.G., visited Kedah in Jemadialakhir (December) for a few days. Accompanied by His Highness the Regent His Excellency made a tour of the principal roads of the State, and visited Sungei Patani, Kulim and Baling, and then proceeded to Langkawi. His Excellency

visited the principal Government institutions in the State and met and conversed with many of the senior official and unofficial members of the local community.

190. The Right Honourable Mr. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, visited Kedah on 5th April (14th Shawal), and met His Highness the Regent and several other senior Malay Officers. He visited the Government English School, and distributed prizes at the first formal prize-giving, which had been held at the School.

191. His Highness the Regent proceeded to England on May 5th (15th Zulkaidah) on six months' leave. The main purpose of His Highness' journey was to meet his sons, two of whom were at Sandhurst, and to see how the Kedah students in England were progressing in their studies.

During the absence of His Highness the Regent, His Highness Tunku Mahmud, Vice President of the State Council, acted as Regent.

192. Mr. T. W. Clayton, British Adviser, proceeded on leave on 5th November (10th Jemadialawal).

Mr. B. W. Elles acted as British Adviser till 23rd Shawal (April 14th) when he went on leave, and was relieved by Mr. H. C. Eckhardt, who acted till the end of the year.

T. W. CLAYTON,
British Adviser, Kedah.

Alor Star, 5th November, 1928.

APPENDIX A.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30th Zulhijjah, 1346 (19-6-28).

Liabilities.		\$	Assets.		\$
Deposits	...	...	Cash	...	412,461
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve	...	...	Advances	...	19,453
Investments Depreciation Reserve	...	...	Cash-in-transit	...	35,165
Excess of Assets	...	...	Imprests	...	23,225
			Investments	...	6,775,715
			Loans	...	59,983
			Suspense Account	...	78,016
			Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve	...	4,222,500
			Investments Depreciation Reserve	...	119,560
TOTAL	...	...	TOTAL	...	11,746,078

32
57

APPENDIX B.

Statement of Revenue for each year from A.H. 1342—1346 (A.D. 1924—1928).

Heads of Revenue.	A. H. 1342 (A. D. 1924)	A. H. 1343 (A. D. 1925)	A. H. 1344 (A. D. 1926)	A. H. 1345 (A. D. 1927)	A. H. 1346 (A. D. 1928)
	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
1. Marine ...	23,175	23,696	28,157	31,679	32,719
2. Customs ...	1,518,741	1,716,006	3,787,061	3,279,108	2,604,423
3. Opium Monopoly ...	1,892,740	1,993,843	2,441,088	2,632,863	2,156,255
4. Fairs and Licences ...	235,905	280,139	356,400	432,451	467,096
5. Court Fees etc... ..	126,224	160,330	168,419	158,255	212,432
6. Police ...	17,369	29,943	30,543	27,800	24,889
7. Education ...	9,982	11,366	12,242	12,042	14,608
8. Veterinary ...	9,985	1,556	3,860	4,008	4,207
9. Reimbursements ...	45,406	56,397	76,388	155,342	144,101
10. Posts and Telegraphs ...	80,399	74,023	103,520	151,607	126,071
11. Lands ...	763,316	832,014	972,802	857,322	847,725
12. Forests ...	74,274	65,738	102,586	135,614	118,078
13. Mines ...	8,923	7,160	9,977	6,796	4,898
14. Interests ...	249,837	248,265	359,672	291,076	371,765
15. Sanitary Boards ...	177,821	197,118	249,930	282,915	280,136
16. Miscellaneous ...	41,680	34,932	61,063	82,829	57,825
17. Land Sales ...	223,788	237,622	415,779	446,722	255,279
Total	5,499,564	5,970,148	9,179,487	8,988,429	7,722,507

STATE OF PUNJAB
Statement of Expenditure for each year from 1342 to 1346 (A. D. 1924—1928).

Heads of Service.	A. H. 1342 (A. D. 1924)					A. H. 1343 (A. D. 1925)					A. H. 1344 (A. D. 1926)					A. H. 1345 (A. D. 1927)					A. H. 1346 (A. D. 1928)				
	\$					\$					\$					\$					\$				
1. Charges on account of the Public Debt	...	...	...	...	...	59,682	29,371	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Ruling House Allowances, Pensions, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	245,432	265,698	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. H. H. The Sultan's Office	...	...	...	...	...	141,087	139,176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. <i>State Council</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

APPENDIX D.

Land Revenue Returns for the year 1346.

DISTRICTS.	PREMIA ON ISSUE OF TITLES.				SURVEY FEES.				BOUNDARY MARKS.				LAND-TAX AND LAND-RENT.	
Bandar Bharu ...	10,000	6,907	89	2,500	1,824	00	3,000	4,382	55	101,000	109,009	04	+	8,009 04
Baling ...	1,500	1,386	35	1,500	2,532	50	2,000	2,007	00	139,150	131,258	65	-	7,891 35
Sik ...	150	157	63	1,000	455	75	500	606	35	10,460	12,818	85	+	2,358 85
TOTAL ...	74,900	80,788	61	25,600	21,632	25	42,700	40,211	49	1,228,580	1,105,670	31	-	122,909 69

APPENDIX B.

Statement of Revenue for each year from A.H. 1342—1346 (A.D. 1924—1928).

Heads of Revenue.		A. H. 1342 (A. D. 1924)		A. H. 1343 (A. D. 1925)		A. H. 1344 (A. D. 1926)		A. H. 1345 (A. D. 1927)		A. H. 1346 (A. D. 1928)					
		%		%		%		%		%					
		Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected				
Kota Star	...	20,000	26,725	00	c.	12,000	8,887	20	400	80	125,000	126,586	20	c.	
Kubang Pasu	...	15,000	3,352	00		5,000	2,683	25	200	40	63,000	61,793	55		
Yen	...	1,000	3,280	50		2,000	2,629	75	50	88	00	20,500	20,719	10	
Langkawi	...	500	1,855	10		100	149	00	10	8	00	12,000	12,096	30	
Padang Trap	...	4,000	6,187	35		150	248	75	10	22	00	6,000	6,026	75	
Kuala Muda	...	150,000	57,429	50		10,000	9,324	34	1,000	1,145	90	158,000	159,462	30	
Kulim	...	60,000	28,750	10		5,000	3,206	25	1,000	755	20	185,000	186,240	85	
Bandar Bharu	...	10,000	18,614	35		2,000	5,064	75	1,000	1,434	50	72,500	70,781	00	
Baling	...	110,000	101,886	50		5,000	2,545	50	150	121	00	19,000	20,779	80	
Sik	...	3,000	5,723	72		300	140	00	10	7	00	5,500	5,728	40	

APPENDIX D.—(Contd.)
Land Revenue Returns for the year 1946.—(Contd.)

DISTRICTS.	COMMISSION IN LIEU OF STAMP DUTY.		REGISTRATION FEES.		MISCELLANEOUS.		GRAND TOTAL.		SIGNS (+) OR (-)					
	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected	Estimated	Collected				
Kota Star	15,000	16,833	47	7,000	6,452	50	12,000	10,208	50	191,400	196,099	67	4,699	67
Kubang Pasu	6,000	4,265	07	4,000	2,795	00	7,000	6,843	10	100,200	81,884	37	18,315	63
Yen	1,000	1,317	74	750	875	25	1,500	1,895	10	26,800	30,805	44	4,005	44
Langkawi	750	356	19	350	403	25	700	688	55	14,410	15,556	39	1,146	39
Padang Trap	500	428	38	500	789	50	1,000	1,066	63	12,160	14,769	36	2,609	36
Kuala Muda	20,000	19,128	77	4,000	3,387	75	10,000	7,697	25	353,000	257,575	81	95,424	19
Kulim	20,000	30,007	12	4,000	2,116	75	5,000	4,816	46	280,000	255,892	73	24,107	27
Bandar Bharu	10,000	6,907	89	2,500	1,824	00	3,000	4,382	55	101,000	109,009	04	8,009	04
Baling	1,500	1,386	35	1,500	2,532	50	2,000	2,007	00	139,150	131,258	65	7,891	35
Sik	150	157	63	1,000	455	75	500	606	35	10,460	12,818	85	2,358	85
TOTAL	74,900	80,788	61	25,600	21,632	25	42,700	40,211	49	1,228,580	1,105,670	31	122,909	69

APPENDIX E.

Return of cases tried in the Courts during the year 1946.

	CRIMINAL.				CIVIL.			
	No. of Cases from 1345	No. of Cases instituted	No. of Cases disposed of	No. of Cases pending at end of 1346	No. of Cases from 1345	No. of Cases instituted	No. of Cases disposed of	No. of Cases pending at end of 1346
MAGISTRATES' COURTS.								
Alor Star	67	1,076	1,129	14	114	822	823	113
Kota Sarang Semut	1	135	127	9	5	45	42	8
Langgar	11	96	96	11	4	19	21	2
Pendang	4	77	47	34	...	49	35	14
DISTRICT COURTS.								
Kubang Pasu	5	694	690	9	48	248	289	7
Padang Trap	14	154	161	7	2	36	35	3
Langkawi	1	138	136	3	2	70	65	7
Yen	...	147	147	...	1	64	59	6
Kota Kuala Muda	6	63	65	4	6	26	28	4
Semiling	4	30	34	...	...	6	3	3
Sungei Patani	71	926	946	51	42	399	362	79
Gurun	...	70	70	...	...	4	2	3
Baling	6	311	299	18	14	63	66	11
Kuala Ketil	5	140	140	5	9	32	37	4
Sik	30	100	126	4	4	9	7	6
Kulim	18	683	658	43	50	481	498	33
Padang Serai	2	59	61	...	1	80	78	3
Bandar Bharu	14	245	240	19	19	145	148	16
Serdang	...	23	23	...	...	18	18	...
TOTAL	259	5,167	5,195	231	322	2,616	2,616	322

APPENDIX F.

Annual Return of Rainfall from 1st December, 1927, to 31st July, 1928, A. D.

Months, 1927-1928.	Alor Star.		Langkawi.		Sungei Patani.		Baling.		Kuala Ketil.		Kulim.		Gerdaug.		Bandar Bharu.		Padang Besar.		Perlis.	
	In. C.		In. C.		In. C.		In. C.		In. C.		In. C.		In. C.		In. C.		In. C.		In. C.	
December	2.76	...	1.66	...	2.31	...	2.40	...	3.17	...	6.54	...	9.39	...	9.34	...	2.01	...	1.30	...
January	2.06	...	.78	...	2.91	...	.57	...	4.01	...	8.45	...	8.28	...	8.86	...	1.48	...	1.98	...
February	3.05	...	.84	...	5.48	...	1.65	...	3.24	...	.86	...	1.76	...	4.02	...	2.85	...	1.43	...
March	5.91	...	4.27	...	5.31	...	5.12	...	8.45	...	7.50	...	10.61	...	4.22	...	4.79	...	6.96	...
April	12.87	...	11.62	...	14.84	...	18.22	...	16.55	...	17.70	...	25.16	...	15.80	...	5.46	...	5.21	...
May	16.82	...	13.37	...	10.00	...	5.36	...	11.53	...	12.01	...	9.50	...	8.85	...	7.04	...	12.87	...
June	5.59	...	5.26	...	1.29	...	1.55	...	3.99	...	1.69	...	2.39	...	6.05	...	1.92	...	4.37	...
July	2.03	...	6.97	...	5.51	...	6.04	...	5.09	...	7.66	...	6.44	...	4.33	...	5.20	...	3.29	...
TOTAL	51.09	...	44.77	...	47.65	...	40.91	...	56.03	...	62.41	...	73.53	...	61.47	...	30.75	...	37.41	...

APPENDIX G.

*Annual Shade Temperature at Alor Star, for the period
from 1st December, 1927, to 31st July, 1928, A. D.*

		TEMPERATURE.			
		Mean dry bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Range.
MONTHS, 1927-1928.					
December	...	81·3	90·6	75·8	14·8
January	...	81·5	92·8	74·5	18·3
February	...	79·9	94·1	75·7	18·4
March	...	79·3	93·2	75·3	17·9
April	...	82·9	91·9	77·4	13·5
May	...	82·5	90·8	77·6	13·2
June	...	82·4	91·6	78·2	13·4
July	...	82·5	91·3	79·0	12·3

Statistics of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Kedah.

* Excludes \$9,590.21 Revenue Debit and \$6,941.80 Police Revenue.
+ Rebuilding trunk telephone lines alone amounted to \$191,537.95.

STATE OF PERLIS,

CONTENTS.

PREFATORY NOTE.

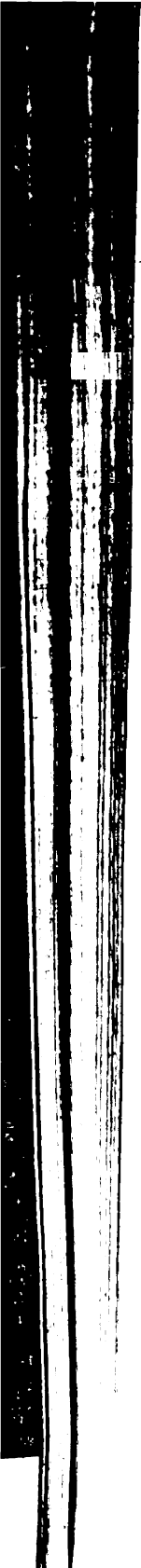
	Page.
I.—GEOGRAPHICAL	47
II.—HISTORICAL	47

ANNUAL REPORT, 1346 A.H.

I.—FINANCIAL	48
II.—AUDIT	49
III.—CHANDU MONOPOLY	49
IV.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES	50
V.—CUSTOMS AND HARBOURS	51
A.—CUSTOMS	51
B.—MARINE AND HARBOURS	52
VI.—EDUCATION	52
VII.—HEALTH AND CLIMATE	53
A.—MEDICAL	53
B.—VITAL STATISTICS	55
C.—VETERINARY	55
D.—METEOROLOGICAL	56
VIII.—JUDICIAL	56
A.—COURTS	56
B.—PRISONS	57
IX.—LANDS AND MINES	58
X.—MUNICIPAL	60
XI.—POLICE AND CRIME	60
A.—POLICE	60
B.—CRIME	61
XII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS	63
XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS	63
A.—ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES	64
B.—BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS	64
XIV.—STATE COUNCIL	66
XV.—SURVEYS	66
XVI.—GENERAL	67

APPENDICES.

A.—REVENUE, A.H. 1344—1346	69
B.—EXPENDITURE, A.H. 1344—1346... ..	70
C.—ASSETS AND LIABILITIES 1345—1346	71
D.—RAINFALL	72
E.—TEMPERATURE	73



STATE OF PERLIS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR A. H. 1346 (1ST JULY, 1927 TO
19TH JUNE, 1928.)

[*The value of the dollar is 2s. 4d.*]

[*A pikul is 133½ pounds av.*]

[*A relong is 711 acre.*]

PREFATORY NOTE.

I.—GEOGRAPHICAL.

1. Perlis is a small State, about 316 square miles in area, between the 6th and 7th parallels of latitude, the coast line running north-west and south-east.

On the west the State is bounded by a range of mountains running north and south which separate it from the Siamese Province of Setul.

On the east the boundary is with the Siamese Province of Nakawn Sritamarat and the Malay State of Kedah and on the south with the State of Kedah.

Padang Besar on the main trunk line to Bangkok is the frontier railway-station between Siam and Malaya.

The population is about 45,000, of whom some 40,000 are Malays.

II.—HISTORICAL.

2. Perlis was made a separate State by the Siamese in about 1841 A. D. when an Arab named Syed Hussin, whose father, Syed Harun, had previously acquired the status of a local chief, was made Raja.

The present Raja, Syed Alwi ibni Almerhum Syed Safi, is the fourth who held that position under the suzerainty of Siam.

A European Adviser was appointed from Bangkok in 1905 at the request of the Raja to aid him in putting the State's finances in order and remained until 15th July, 1909, when in consequence of a treaty concluded between Great Britain and Siam, whereby the suzerainty of Siam was exchanged for that of Great Britain, the duties were handed over to a British Adviser.

Mr. Meadows Frost, M.C.S., was the first to act in the new appointment.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1346 A.H.

I.—FINANCIAL.

1. The Revenue of the State for the year amounted to \$645,114 on an Estimate of \$570,030 and exceeded that of the previous year by \$30,449.

The advance in Revenue during the past 5 years is shown by the following figures:—

A.H.			\$
1342	..	..	453,452
1343	..	..	470,616
1344	..	..	594,098
1345	..	..	614,665
1346	..	..	645,114
1347 (Estimated)	..	..	595,200

The Revenue in 1327 (1909), the first year of British Administration, was \$102,552.

2. The Expenditure amounted to \$622,928 as against \$630,768 in the previous year. The Estimate was \$564,684.

Expenditure included a sum of \$50,000 paid in reduction of the debt to the Government of the Federated Malay States which stood at the end of the year at \$100,000 and at the time of writing has been reduced by a further payment to \$50,000. The excess over the Estimate was largely due to a special vote of \$28,500 for completion of the extension of the Water Supply to Arau. Other expenditure not provided for in the 1346 Estimates included sums for purchase of land, purchase of motor lorries for the Public Works Department and expenses of an Agricultural Show.

Details are given in Appendices A and B.

3. The surplus of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year amounted to \$377,447.

A statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the two years 1345 and 1346 is given in Appendix C.

Investments amounting to \$295,000, which consist of Straits Settlements Government securities and Singapore Municipal debentures, are entered at face value.

Of the sum of \$46,436 shown under Deposits a considerable portion will ultimately be credited to Revenue.

II.—AUDIT.

4. The work of this Office was carried out by an Assistant State Auditor and three clerks under the supervision of the Adviser who performs the duties of State Auditor.

5. Sixty regular Audits of Offices were performed, representing approximately a quarterly examination, and 819 audits of out-station Police, Customs, Chandu, Municipal and Veterinary accounts, representing more than a monthly inspection.

6. A large number of surprise examinations were conducted by the Adviser.

7. The cost of the department, including salaries was \$2,698.

III.—CHANDU MONOPOLY.

8. The total amount of Chandu (prepared opium) sold was 20,435 tahils as against 19,812 tahils in 1345.

9. The total gross revenue collected was \$272,082. Of this sum \$53,133 was paid to the Straits Settlements Government for purchase of Chandu leaving a nett revenue of \$218,948.

10. Opium was sold at 6 Government retail shops to male adult Chinese only. There are no licensed retail shops in the State.

Two Smoking Saloons were licensed at Kangar and Kaki Bukit. Arrangements were made at the end of the year to replace these by Government Smoking Saloons.

11. There were 10 prosecutions before the Courts with 8 convictions.

Fines amounted to \$243.

12. Haji Ismail bin Haji Ibrahim, Assistant State Treasurer, acted as Superintendent throughout the year. The staff consisted of 8 clerks and 5 Revenue officers.

IV.—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

13. Inche Wan Ahmad bin Wan Daud, State Treasurer, continued to be Officer-in-Charge throughout the year in addition to carrying out his duties in the Treasury.

14. The year under review was the second since the passing of the Co-operative Societies Enactment and the commencement of formation of Co-operative Societies in the State.

15. At beginning of the year there were two Societies, namely a Thrift and Loan Society for Government Servants and a Rural Credit Society at Kuala Perlis where the members are fishermen.

During the year four more Rural Credit Societies were formed, with members whose occupation is mainly agricultural.

At the end of the year the six Societies had a total membership of 407 with a total paid-up capital of \$12,325.

16. There is reason to hope that the formation of the Rural Credit Societies will in time effect the disappearance of the system known as "padi kuncha" among the agricultural population which entails borrowing money at 100 per cent interest or even more.

At present it frequently happens that a padi cultivator borrows, say \$10, at the beginning of the planting season and undertakes to repay the loan after the padi harvest by one kuncha of padi or its equivalent value of about \$20. If the harvest is poor or, if for some other reason, the borrower is unable to repay the loan, the money lender extends the period of repayment until the end of the next harvest on condition that the amount due, viz \$20, be treated as principal and that the loan be repaid by two kunchas of padi or \$40. The result is that many a padi cultivator finds himself in a hopeless financial position from which he cannot extricate himself.

17. The progress of the Co-operative movement in the State is in a large measure due to the support given by Tuan Syed Hamzah, Vice-President of the State Council, Haji Mohamad Noor, Chief Kathi and Haji Ahmad, Chief Magistrate.

18. Expenditure on Personal Emoluments amounted to \$3,240 and on other charges to \$728.

V.—CUSTOMS AND HARBOURS.

A.—CUSTOMS.

19. The total revenue collected from Customs amounted to \$246,337 as against an estimate of \$225,000 and exceeded the revenue collected in 1345 by \$28,921.

The principal items were:—

	1345.	1346.
	\$	\$
Import duty on liquor	35,377	34,831
.. .. tobacco	56,203	57,861
Export duty on poultry	8,214	9,849
.. .. padi and rice	28,461	32,113
.. .. tin-ore	58,417	81,691
.. .. rubber	10,086	11,058
.. .. fish	7,592	4,915

20. The quantity of the various dutiable articles imported was as follows:—

	1345.	1346.
Tobacco (pikuls)	552	557
Cigars (lbs.)	605	638
Cigarettes (lbs.)	33,391	34,194
European spirits (gallons)	1,855	1,855
Chinese spirits (gallons)	2,446	2,630
Beer, Cider etc. (gallons)	3,576	4,434
Petroleum (gallons)	138,767	147,632

21. The quantity of the principal articles exported is given below:—

	1345.	1346.
Tin-ore (pikuls)	5,551	9,234
Padi and rice (pikuls)	148,000	139,007
Fish (pikuls)	6,657	4,706
Poultry	82,027	98,492
Eggs	3,507,008	3,327,884
Rubber (pikuls)	3,745	4,119
Cattle (Head)	42	47
Sheep and Goats (Head)	146	128
Hides (pikuls)	193	180
Copra (pikuls)	1,505	2,454
Betel-nut (pikuls)	616	528

Other exports include guano, tapioca flour, ataps, firewood and honey.

B.—MARINE AND HARBOURS.

22. Junks entering increased from 248 to 326 and tonnage from 6,575 to 7,884. Small boats entering increased from 338 to 374. Calls by Motor Boats increased from 106 to 240.

The figures for vessels leaving are indential with those entering.

23. Lights were maintained at Kuala Perlis and at Kuala Sanglang.

24. The following fishing licences were issued and boats registered:—

	1345.	1346.
Deep water fishing stakes	176	186
Shallow water fishing stakes	44	56
Seine and drift nets	133	109
Fishing lines	..	39
Boats	740	728

25. Twenty-one prosecutions were brought in matters relating to Customs with 19 convictions, and 3 relating to Harbours with 3 convictions.

26. The Marine and Harbour Revenue amounted to \$2,315 as against \$2,137 in 1345.

Inche Muhammad Arshad was in charge of the Customs and Harbours Departments until the end of the year when he retired on pension after nearly 30 years faithful service under the Governments of Kedah and Perlis.

VI.—EDUCATION.

27. Nineteen schools, including schools for girls at Kangar and Arau, were maintained.

In addition to the above a new school was opened during the year in a temporary building at Santan.

A new building of a better type was erected at Paya and a similar new building was commenced at Kuala Sanglang, to replace old and unserviceable buildings.

The staff consisted of a Visiting Teacher, an Assistant Visiting Teacher, a Visiting Teacher Koran and 89 teachers, including teachers of the Koran.

The number of school-children on the register at the end of the year was 2,086 an increase of 39 on the figure for the previous year.

The percentage of attendance was 85 and of attendance at Koran classes 87.

28. Vernacular instruction is given up to the 5th standard. Ninety-four boys passed this standard at the annual examination.

The annual Koran examination at all schools was conducted by the Chief Kathi. The number of entries was 540 and the percentage of passes was 75.

Four boys are studying at the Penang Free School at Government expense.

There are four Perlis students at the Sultan Idris Teachers' Training College at Tanjong Malim in Perak. Two are now in their third year while the other two only went to the College during the year under review.

About 500 school-children attended the King's Birthday Parade and gave an exhibition of physical drill.

The total expenditure of the Department amounted to \$36,272 as against \$34,865 in the previous year.

VII.—HEALTH AND CLIMATE.

A.—MEDICAL.

29. A General Hospital is maintained by Government at Kangar with ward accommodation for 60 patients.

A hut "family ward" with accommodation for two families, intended specially for the use of Malay women, was completed during the year. This ward, which has been named the "Lilian Williams" Ward in recognition of the work done by Mrs. Williams, the wife of the Adviser, for the women of Perlis, was opened by His Highness the Raja in the eleventh month (May, 1928).

Mr. R. Sivasambandan was Assistant Surgeon-in-Charge throughout the year.

A Malay mid-wife was appointed during the year.

The State Surgeon, Kedah, paid monthly visits to the Hospital, in addition to advising on more important matters.

30. The number of in-patients during the year was 1,087 as against 1,007 in 1345 and 620 in 1344.

The number of female patients treated was 132. The figures for the years 1345 and 1344 were 84 and 43 respectively.

The percentage of deaths was 6.25 as compared with 5.6 in 1345 and 6.93 in 1344. If deaths within 48 hours of admission are omitted the death rate was 3.8 per cent as against 4.35 per cent in the previous year.

The daily average of patients was 46.75 as compared with 37.23 in 1345.

Nineteen major operations and 2,042 minor operations were performed and 45 post mortems were held.

Of the 1,087 patients treated 527 were Indians, 386 were Chinese and 162 were Malays.

Blood films and other specimens numbering 4,372 were examined in the laboratory.

The principal diseases were malaria, ankylostomiasis, dysentery, tuberculosis and venereal disease. Malaria cases numbered 356 with 14 deaths. The number of cases admitted for ankylostomiasis (hook worm disease) increased considerably being 83 in 1346 as against 34 in 1345.

31. Out-door patients numbered 6,568 as compared with 6,434 in the previous year. Of these 3,946 were Malays, 1,463 Indians and 1,017 Chinese.

In addition to the above 147 cases were treated in the Kangar Gaol.

The Travelling Dispensary again did most useful work and was much appreciated.

The number of vaccinations performed was 2,864 as compared with 2,363 in the previous year.

The total number of intravenous injections of neo-salvarsan was 1,583 of which 1,070 were for yaws and 513 for venereal disease.

32. Two mental cases were transferred to the Central Mental Hospital at Tanjong Rambutan where there were 17 Perlis patients at the end of the year.

One case of leprosy (Tamil) was transferred to the Leper Asylum at Pulau Jerjak. There are now 3 Perlis patients at the Asylum.

Five Southern Indians were repatriated to India through the Labour Office at Penang during the year.

33. Revenue amounted to \$1622, \$965 being for Hospital fees and \$657 for sale of medicines.

Expenditure was \$23,585 (\$20,921 in 1345) of which \$9,333 was for salaries and \$14,252 was expended on other charges.

B.—VITAL STATISTICS.

34. Nine hundred and forty births were registered during the year, of which 773 were Malays, 105 Chinese, 49 Siamese and 13 Indians. Males born numbered 482 and females 458.

The Birth rate is 24.26 per mille.

35. Seven hundred and twenty-two deaths were registered; 552 Malays, 125 Chinese, 24 Siamese and 21 Indians.

Four hundred and fourteen were males and 308 females.

The following table shows the incidence of deaths at various ages:-

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of deaths.</i>
Over 50 years	228
Between 30 and 50 years	163
Between 10 and 30 years	120
Between 1 and 10 years	117
Under 12 months	94
Total	722

The death rate is 15.56 per mille.

C.—VETERINARY.

36. The number of licences for cattle issued during the year was 3282 being a decrease of 97 on the number issued in the previous year. No cattle were imported and only 19 head of cattle were exported. Import from Siam had to be stopped in the year 1344 owing to the prevalence of cattle disease in that country, and it became necessary to restrict export owing to the impossibility of replacement. These restrictions are still in force.

There was no cattle epidemic in the State during the year.

37. There was no further case of rabies in the State, but the shooting of stray dogs was continued and about 200 dogs were destroyed.

D.—METEOROLOGICAL.

38. Abstracts of Meteorological observations are given in Appendices D and E. The Rainfall at Kangar totalled 87.77 inches during the year under review.

The average annual rainfall at Kangar during the last 10 years is 80.97 inches. The greatest rainfall at Kangar in 24 hours was 4.41 inches on 5th August, 1927. The highest temperature recorded at Kangar during the year was 96° on 12th February, 1928 and the lowest 66° on 17th January, 1928.

VIII.—JUDICIAL.

A.—COURTS.

39. The revenue collected in the Civil and Criminal Courts amounted to \$21,381 as compared with \$18,714 in 1345 and \$18,077 in 1344.

Expenditure was \$15,004.

The revenue of the Sheriah Court amounted to \$1,515 (\$1,608 in 1345.)

40. The work done in the Courts is tabulated hereunder:—

CRIMINAL COURTS.

	Cases from 1345	Instituted in 1346	Disposed of in 1346	Pending at end of 1346
Appeal Court ...	...	17	17	...
Senior Court ...	...	24	23	1
Junior Court ...	8	595	599	4
Sheriah Court ...	5	48	45	8

CIVIL COURTS.

	Cases from 1345.	Instituted in 1346.	Disposed of in 1346.	Pending at end of 1346.
Senior Court (Appeal)	...	31	30	1
Junior Court	...	16	796	58
Sheriah Court	...	19	63	77
				5

41. Of 76 administration suits set down for hearing 68 were disposed of during the year.

42. Of 17 Criminal appeals instituted in 1346, 5 were dismissed, 6 were allowed and in 6 cases the decision of the Lower Court was varied.

Of 31 Civil appeals instituted in 1346, 16 were dismissed, 11 were allowed and in 2 cases the order of the Lower Court was varied. One appeal was withdrawn and one pending at the end of the year.

43. There were 3 Criminal appeals to the Raja's Court, 2 of which were dismissed and one was allowed.

There was one Civil appeal to the Raja's Court which was dismissed.

B.—PRISONS.

44. The Adviser is Superintendent of Prisons and is assisted by a Gaoler. The staff consisted at the end of the year of 4 Sikh N.C.O.'s and 4 Sikh and 9 Malay warders.

There were 43 prisoners remaining at the end of the previous year. 125 were admitted during the year, two of whom were women. One prisoner died and one escaped while working outside the Gaol. 39 prisoners remained at the end of the year.

Forty-three offences by prisoners and eighteen by warders were dealt with by the Superintendent. Thirty-nine prisoners were punished and 4 discharged. In the 18 cases against the warders 15 were punished and 3 discharged.

Inche Muhammad Nossie acted as Gaoler until the third month when Inche Mahmood was appointed to the post.

45. Rice is purchased and milled in the Gaol. 22,112 gantangs of padi were milled into 10,978 gantangs of rice and sold for \$4,345.

Rice was supplied to the Medical and Public Works Departments as well as used in the Gaol.

Materials for manufacture were bought during the year at a cost of \$1,599 and manufactures to the value of \$2,349 were sold.

The work done inside the Gaol included rice-milling, carpentry, basketry, chickmaking and licence and other notice-board writing.

A large amount of furniture was made for Government Departments and a rattan furniture exhibit was sent to the local Agricultural Show where it was awarded a Diploma.

A considerable amount of extra-mural work was performed such as scavenging, grass-cutting, drain-cleaning, gardening and so forth.

46. The health of the prisoners was again satisfactory.

47. The total revenue collected amounted to \$6,694 (\$5,916 in 1345) and expenditure to \$17,378 (\$15,263 in 1345).

IX.—LANDS AND MINES.

48. The total Revenue from Lands and Mines amounted to \$90,303 as against \$89,294 in 1345. Land Rents, recurrent, amounted to \$35,877 and arrears to the amount of \$5,984 were collected.

3,942 notices of demand for rent were issued and 761 warrants of attachment.

A sum of \$8,882 was collected on land held under Temporary Occupation licences as compared with \$8,284 in 1345.

Survey fees collected amounted to \$6,098.

The demand for agricultural land continued and the amount realised by sale was \$19,066 as against \$24,251 in 1345 and \$17,792 in 1344.

907 relongs were alienated for padi planting, 261 for "Kampong" cultivation and 1,245 for the planting of rubber.

49. The area of wet padi land in the State is estimated at 55,730 relongs. Of this area 45,908 relongs are reported to have been planted with wet padi during the year under review.

The padi crop harvested at the end of the year (season 1927-1928) was estimated at 5,434,000 gantangs as compared with 9,655,939 gantangs in 1345.

The average yield was 118 gantangs a relong.

The chief reason for the poor crop appears to have been a drought in the early planting stages before the plants had got firmly established.

The prospects for the coming season are fortunately much better.

50. The Inspector of Lands continued as in previous years to investigate cases of occupation of State land without authority and cases where letters of administration of estates by deceased persons have not yet been obtained.

His duties also included the carrying out of the Land Office procedure for collection of arrears of rent.

Tuan Syed Hassan bin Syed Zain continued as Inspector of Lands until the end of the year when he was transferred to the post of Collector of Customs.

51. Mines revenue amounted to \$4,966 as compared with \$3,724 in 1345. Rent amounted to \$3,473 and survey fees to \$1,088, while \$385 was collected on the issue of 16 prospecting licences.

Twenty-one Mining Certificates were issued and one Mining licence.

The total amount of tin exported during the year amounted to 9,234 pikuls as compared with 5,551 pikuls in 1345.

The total area of land held under mining titles at the end of the year was 3,238 relongs. With the exception of 216 relongs, the whole of this area has been alienated for cave mining in the limestone hills, or "Wangs" as they are known locally.

52. The total Expenditure of the Lands and Mines Office including personal emoluments of Penghulus amounted to \$22,681 and that of the office of the Inspector of Lands to \$3,799.

Tuan Syed Idrus bin Tuan Che Indut continued to be Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

X.—MUNICIPAL.

53. The Board held 8 meetings at Kangar, 3 at Arau, 5 at Padang Besar and 2 at Kaki Bukit.

The usual matters relating to health, buildings etc. were dealt with in these areas which were well kept.

54. There were 16 prosecutions for offences under the Enactment with convictions in all cases.

55. Revenue amounted to \$16,978 and expenditure to \$10,891 as compared with \$16,153 and \$9,534 in 1345.

Inche Muhammad Arshad bin Che Matt, Collector of Customs, continued to officiate as Chairman of the Board until the end of the year when he retired on pension.

The Board consists of the Chairman, the Assistant Engineer, the Assistant Surgeon, the Chief of Police and from two to four unofficial members for each of the various areas.

The thanks of Government are again due to these unofficial members for their valuable assistance.

XI.—POLICE AND CRIME.

A.—POLICE.

56. Inche Matt bin Haji Kassim continued to be in charge of the Police Department and was promoted to be Chief of Police from the beginning of the year.

The duties of the Chief of Police include the issue of timber passes, the veterinary work, the registration of births and deaths and the registration of vehicles.

Inche Ahmad bin Haji Abdulrahman assumed duty as Inspector of Police in the ninth month after completing a year's training at the Police Depot, Kuala Lumpur.

The Chief of Police was also assisted by Inche Mohamed Hashim bin Ariff who was promoted at the beginning of the year from the rank of Sergeant-Major to Sub-Inspector.

A Lance-Corporal was sent during the year to the Police Depot at Kuala Lumpur to undergo a course of training as a drill-instructor.

57. Seven Police stations were maintained in the State.

The strength of the force at the close of the year was 84 of all ranks: with few exceptions the whole Force is Malay.

Fifteen recruits, most of whom were Perlis born, were enrolled.

58. Discipline was on the whole good. There was one dismissal and two men deserted.

The health of the force was fairly good.

There was one death and 3 men retired on the grounds of ill health.

59. The number of licences issued under the various Enactments during the year was 1,065 as compared with 1,011 in 1345.

60. The Revenue of the Department amounted to \$9,195 as against \$8,470 collected in 1345.

The chief increases occurred under music passes, registration of vehicles and timber passes.

Police Expenditure amounted to \$39,158 as against \$35,633 in 1345.

B.—CRIME.

61. Three hundred and twenty reports were received at the various Stations as against 260 in the previous year. Of the 320 reports 258 were admitted while 62 were not proceeded with or were referred to the Courts. Discoveries were made in 198 cases.

Eighty-three reports of theft were admitted as against 70 reports in 1345.

In 53 cases investigations were successful.

Fourteen reports of cattle theft were admitted and in 7 cases recovery was effected.

Three reports of robbery were admitted and discovery was made in each case.

Four reports of murder were received during the year and investigated. Arrests were made in two cases. In one case the Court acquitted the accused and in the other the charge was subsequently withdrawn as the evidence proved insufficient to support the prosecution.

Of the two cases in which no arrests were made one concerned a Malay who was able to give the name of his assailant before he died. The alleged assailant could not however be found and information was obtained that he had fled to Siam. In the other case no clue as to the offender could be found but it would appear that the deceased, who was a well-known bad character, met his death while about to commit a theft.

62. Five hundred and twenty cases involving 780 persons were sent for trial by the Courts, an increase of 106 on the number of cases in the previous year.

This increase is largely due to an increase in the number of traffic cases and to a larger number of cases for offences under Enactments. In 469 cases 664 persons were convicted as compared with 366 convictions (502 persons) in 1345.

In 51 cases concerning 116 persons prosecution failed.

Eleven cases of accidental death were investigated. Two persons met their death by snake bite, one was gored by a wild boar and two were killed by lightning.

There were two fatal accidents while cave mining.

Six Siamese persons were extradited and surrendered to the Siamese authorities.

XII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

63. The following correspondence was dealt with at Kangar Post Office:—

	1345.	1346.
Letters ...	60,593	88,335
Registered Articles	3,628	3,816
Parcels ...	1,114	1,162
Insured Parcels ...	14 (value \$728)	30 (value \$4,848)
C. O. D. Parcels ...	225 (Trade Charges \$2,108. Delivery fees \$33).	243 (Trade Charges \$2,260. Delivery fees \$25).

The following number of telegrams were transmitted to and from Kangar:—

	1345	1346
Despatched	2,119	2,119
Delivered	2,093	2,054

Money Orders and Postal Orders to the value of \$33,774 were handled at the Kangar Post Office, as compared with orders to the value of \$33,449 in 1345.

At Padang Besar Railway Station, on the Siamese frontier, the following correspondence was dealt with:—

	1345	1346
Letters	33,033	34,762
Registered Articles	1,064	1,708
Parcels	58	55

Telegrams were handled by the Railway Telegraph Office.

64. This Department is maintained by the Kedah Government which also controls the telephone system.

XIII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

65. The total Expenditure of the Department amounted to \$206,324 on an estimate, including Supplementary Votes, of \$210,001.

Personal Emoluments accounted for \$15,251 and other charges, annually recurrent, for \$2,674.

*RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.**A.—ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES.*

66. Expenditure was \$49,976 as against \$40,078 in the previous year.

Thirty-six and half miles of metalled roads were upkept at a cost of \$1,342 per mile and 8 miles were re-metalled during the year.

Seven miles of unmetalled road and 22¼ miles of path were also maintained.

A commencement was made with asphaltting the roads in the State.

One mile of road varying from 14 feet to 28 feet in width was asphalted at a cost of \$2,577 paid from a special service provision, but in future there will be an annually recurrent vote for this purpose.

B.—BUILDINGS AND MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

67. The total number of Government Buildings in the State at the end of the year was 160 which were upkept at a cost of \$6,000. Six new buildings were completed and five others were in course of construction.

A sum of \$8,000 was spent on Minor Works, forseen and unforeseen.

68. The total cost of maintenance of Waterways and Irrigations Works was \$5,993 including \$5,000 for clearing canals and rivers and \$645 for repairing various dams.

Some 55 miles of canals and rivers were cleared during the year at an average cost of \$91 per mile.

A sum of \$5,545 was spent on maintenance of the Waterworks.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

69. The road between Kangar and Tebing Tinggi on the Perlis river which had not been maintained for some years was re-metalled and put into good condition.

A reinforced concrete pile bridge at the 11th mile on the Kaki Bukit road was completed. The replacing of temporary culverts and bridges by permanent structures on the main roads was continued.

Two new motor lorries and a new steam roller were purchased during the year.

70. A permanent ferro-concrete dam 30 feet wide by 9½ feet deep was commenced at Padang Malau on the Pelarit River.

By the end of the year the main structure of the dam, except for sluices and lifting gear, was nearly completed. Considerable difficulties were caused by heavy rains towards the end of the year, as this river rises very quickly.

71. The Kangar and Arau water-supply, which had been completed as far as Kangar in 1345, was continued to Arau during the year under review and finally completed in the fifth month (November, 1927). The total cost of these waterworks which were commenced in 1344 has been a little over \$227,700 which is a large sum for this State.

The above sum does not include the cost of two new filter beds which have since been added. One of these was completed, except for filling with filtering material, by the end of the year.

72. A Hut Ward at the Kangar Hospital with accommodation for two families was completed during the year. As already stated this ward has been named the "Lillian Williams" Ward and was formally opened by His Highness the Raja in the 11th month.

A female ward at the same hospital was also completed during the year.

73. A Reception Hall was built at the Astana, Arau, and an extension to the Malay Club at Kangar was completed.

Other works carried out during the year included special repairs to the Customs Office and the Market at Kangar.

74. School buildings and Teachers Quarters were completed at Sungei Berembang, Kayang and Paya, but work on similar buildings at Sanglang and Utan Aji was unfortunately stopped owing to the absconding of the Malay contractors. Steps have been taken to secure the completion of these schools by other contractors.

75. The average labour force of the Department was 173. Their health was generally good.

Mr. G. C. Hesketh was Assistant Engineer until the seventh month (January, 1928), when he was succeeded by Mr. J. J. Bryan, also an Assistant Engineer of the F. M. S. Public Works Department.

Mr. C. R. Savege was Assistant Engineer, Waterworks, until the eighth month (end of January, 1928).

The State Engineer, Kedah, gave valuable advice on more important matters and paid monthly visits to the State.

XIV.—STATE COUNCIL.

76. There were 44 meetings of the State Council.

His Highness the Raja presided at every meeting.

The following Enactments were passed:—

1. The Land Tenure Amendment Enactment.
2. The Concessions Amendment Enactment.
3. The Registration of Deeds Amendment Enactment.
4. The Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Enactment.
5. The Administration of Estates Amendment Enactment.

XV.—SURVEYS.

77. The Expenditure of the Department amounted to \$18,747.

78. Preliminary plans following demarcation were drawn in the Kedah District Survey Office, Alor Star, while the more rigorous drafting of the 2-chain sheets and the preparation of titles were carried out in the Kedah Head Office at Kulim.

79. One thousand and sixty-four lots were demarcated covering 5,309 acres as against 1,364 lots and 5,181 acres in 1345. The decrease is due partly to the increasingly scattered nature of the work and partly to a smaller field staff.

The total number of lots demarcated at the end of 1346 amounted to 24,214.

80. Nine hundred and forty-one lots were plotted in the District Survey Office on the preliminary plans and 1,114 lots were added to the 2-chain sheets in the Head Office which are based on co-ordinated chain and compass traverse controlled by theodolite traverses.

One thousand one hundred and fourteen small grants were forwarded to the Land Office making a total of 6,865.

Nine sun prints of the two-chain sheets were prepared and forwarded to the Adviser.

Sun prints of 119 areas representing 941 lots in four mukims were prepared and forwarded to the Land Office for Preliminary Settlement.

Requisitions (indicating the completion of Preliminary Settlement) for the survey of 793 lots were received from the Land Office, making a total of 10,851.

81. The computations of 12 control traverses representing 78.17 miles were finally co-ordinated and passed.

A special underground mining survey was done by the Department during the year to fix the position of certain tin workings disputed by adjoining mine owners.

Mr. W. J. C. Stevens was in charge of the Department throughout the year and the field-work was supervised by Mr. O. Watson, Assistant Superintendent, North Kedah until the fourth month when he was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Stubington.

XVI.—GENERAL.

82. His Highness the Raja enjoyed excellent health and presided at every meeting of the State Council throughout the year.

His Highness paid a private visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malacca and Singapore in July, 1927.

83. His Excellency the High Commissioner paid a visit to the State in December, 1927 and in particular expressed his pleasure at what he saw during an inspection of the Hospital and Gaol at Kangar.

84. A second agricultural show was opened by His Highness in January, 1928. It proved very successful and the attendance exceeded 37,000 persons.

Several Perlis exhibits were sent to the Kuala Lumpur agricultural show earlier in the year.

85. The King's Birthday was celebrated by a parade of Police and Boy Scouts, followed by a display of physical drill by over 500 Malay school boys and of dumb-bell exercises by Chinese school children. Athletic sports were held in the afternoon.

86. A Malay troupe of Boy Scouts was formed during the year and proved very useful at the agricultural show.

A successful rally was held at the Residency in May.

87. Mr. P. S. Williams acted as British Adviser until the twelfth month (24th May, 1928) when he went on furlough and was succeeded by Mr. L. A. Allen.

88. The year under review saw a continuance of the prosperity which the State has enjoyed in recent years, and it was not until the end of the year that the general trade depression elsewhere in the Peninsula, accentuated by the partial failure of the local padi crop began to be felt in the State.

L. A. ALLEN,
Ag. British Adviser, Perlis.

Kangar, 5th November, 1928.

APPENDIX A.

*Return of Annual Revenue collected in the years
A. H. 1344, 1345, and 1346.*

Headings.				1344.	1345.	1346.
				\$	\$	\$
Land	...	...	...	92,012	85,570	85,337
Mines	...	...	...	3,161	3,724	4,966
Forests	...	...	...	1,558	1,610	1,826
Customs	...	...	...	217,811	217,416	216,337
Chandu Monopoly	...	...	...	200,132	220,874	218,948
Farms and Licences	...	...	...	6,914	9,104	9,025
Harbours	...	...	...	2,272	2,137	2,315
Courts	...	...	...	18,077	18,714	21,381
Sheriah Court	...	...	...	1,534	1,608	1,515
Police	...	...	...	6,065	6,013	6,549
Veterinary	...	...	...	1,342	846	821
Municipal	...	...	...	15,976	16,153	16,978
Prison	...	...	...	5,714	5,916	6,694
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	21,530	24,980	22,422
TOTAL				594,098	614,665	645,114

APPENDIX B.

*Return of Annual Expenditure incurred in the years
A. H. 1344, 1345, and 1346.*

Headings.	1344.	1345.	1346.
	\$	\$	\$
His Highness the Raja ...	25,560	34,957	36,583
Office Raja and Adviser ...	14,217	16,000	16,119
Audit Office ...	1,780	2,292	2,698
Chandu Monopoly ...	6,377	8,942	10,960
Treasury ...	4,114	4,751	3,580
Co-operative Societies...	...	1,762	3,968
Courts ...	11,826	12,897	15,004
Sheriah Court ...	4,607	4,757	5,372
Mosques ...	3,681	4,013	4,111
Police ...	30,518	35,129	38,619
Veterinary ...	1,083	504	540
Lands and Mines ...	17,095	16,288	16,525
Penghulus ...	5,532	5,341	6,156
Office Inspector of Lands ...	...	3,318	3,799
Surveys ...	14,709	16,800	18,747
Prison ...	15,601	15,263	17,378
Medical ...	20,143	20,921	23,585
Education ...	27,366	34,865	36,272
Customs and Harbours ...	12,002	13,647	14,930
Municipal ...	9,174	9,533	10,891
Ruling House Allowances, Pen- sions etc ...	12,370	16,353	16,110
Repayment of Loan to F. M. S.			
Government ...	50,000	50,000	50,000
Interest on loans ...	8,899	6,927	4,771
Miscellaneous ...	31,361	48,493	59,886
Public Works ...	237,056	247,015	206,324
TOTAL ...	565,071	630,768	622,928

APPENDIX C.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at the end of the two years 1945 and 1946.

Liabilities.	At end of 1945 (30-6-27)	At end of 1946 (19-6-28)	Assets.	At end of 1945 (30-6-27)	At end of 1946 (19-6-28)
	₹	₹		₹	₹
Loan ...	150,000	100,000	Cash in Treasury ...	29,600	46,030
Deposits ...	64,711	16,436	Cash at Bank ...	106,312	77,691
Excess of Assets ..	305,235	377,447	Investments ...	295,000	295,000
			Advances ...	89,034	105,162
TOTAL ...	519,946	523,883	TOTAL ...	519,946	523,883

APPENDIX D.

Abstract of Rainfall Observations at three Stations of the State during the years 1927 and 1928 (part).

Months.		Kangar.		Kaki Bukit.		Padang Besar.	
		1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928
		Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
January	...	4.06	1.98	2.94	2.09	5.03	1.48
February	...	4.03	1.43	2.99	3.20	1.06	2.85
March	...	7.93	6.96	4.59	6.24	5.43	4.79
April	...	5.97	5.21	7.88	6.58	8.99	5.46
May	...	9.06	12.87	11.65	8.84	9.31	7.04
June	...	5.04	4.37	6.22	2.00	5.69	1.92
July	...	12.88	3.29	9.11	3.26	6.66	5.20
August	...	14.24	5.90	11.41	10.50	9.95	5.82
September	...	10.80	12.64	6.28	12.29	11.37	7.28
October	...	8.96	10.12	7.16	10.84	5.92	11.21
November	...	6.77	5.12	5.63	8.24	5.17	6.77
December	...	1.30	...	2.09	...	2.01	...
TOTAL	...	91.04	...	77.95	...	76.59	...

APPENDIX E.

*Abstract of Thermometrical Observations at the General
Hospital, Kangar during the years 1927
and 1928 (part).*

Months.	Thermometer Mean (In Shade)			Highest recorded Shade Tempera- ture	Lowest recorded Shade Tempera- ture
	Maximum	Minimum	Range		
1927.					
January ...	87.5	72.7	14.8	91	71
February ...	90.3	72.1	18.2	95	69
March ...	91.8	73.9	17.9	96	72
April ...	91.0	73.6	17.4	94	72
May ...	88.5	74.4	14.1	92	72
June ...	87.3	74.3	13.0	92	72
July ...	86.6	74.5	12.1	92	72
August ...	86.4	71.9	14.5	90	70
September...	87.2	74.1	13.1	90	72
October ...	86.5	73.2	13.3	90	72
November...	88.2	73.4	14.8	94	72
December ...	89.3	72.0	17.3	91	70
Mean for year 1927.	88.4	73.3	15.1	...	...
1928.					
January ...	91.0	71.7	19.3	94	66
February ...	91.8	72.1	19.7	96	69
March ...	92.2	72.5	19.7	95	70
April ...	91.3	74.0	17.3	94	72
May ...	88.9	74.5	14.4	96	72
June ...	90.0	74.1	15.9	92	72
July ...	90.6	73.8	16.8	94	72
August ...	88.6	73.5	15.1	92	72
September...	87.0	73.3	13.7	92	72
October ...	86.7	73.2	13.5	94	70
November...	89.1	72.1	17.0	92	68
December ...	...	...	...	...	...

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No. 1428

BASUTOLAND

REPORT FOR 1928

*(For Reports for 1926 and 1927 see Nos. 1336 and 1385
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BASUTOLAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page
PREFATORY NOTE	2
I. GENERAL	4
II. FINANCE	4
III. PRODUCTION	8
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	9
V. COMMUNICATIONS	10
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	11
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	12
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH	13
IX. EDUCATION	15
X. LABOUR	19
XI. VETERINARY	19
XII. MISCELLANEOUS	22
MAP OF BASUTOLAND.	

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

Basutoland, which is a native territory in South Africa, is bounded on the west by the Orange Free State, on the north by the Orange Free State and Natal, on the east by Natal and East Griqualand, and on the south by the Cape Province. Its area is 11,716 square miles. It lies between 28° 35' and 30° 40' South latitude, and between 27° and 29° 30' East longitude.

The altitude varies from 5,000 ft. to 11,000 ft. above sea-level, and the climate is, on the whole, healthy. The Maluti Mountains, which occupy most of the country to the east, in former years were reserved entirely as cattle and sheep-posts, but owing to the increase in population the Basuto have found it necessary to migrate there, build villages and cultivate the land, so that to-day this more or less inaccessible area is gradually becoming as thickly populated as the low-lying country to the west. The result of this invasion into the mountain area is the disappearance of all big game, such as eland and hartebeeste, that used to abound some 30 years ago and the gradual elimination of the smaller buck.

* The financial information given in this Report is for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928.

In favourable seasons the territory produces wheat, maize, and kaffir corn, while horse-breeding and the raising of cattle and sheep are profitable undertakings, especially the latter; the export of wool for this year amounting to 14,927,616 pounds weight, valued at £765,000 approximately.

In 1818 the first Paramount Chief of Basutoland, Moshesh, gathered together the various remnants of tribes which had become scattered about South Africa during the wars of Moselekatse and thus founded what has become the Basuto nation. The estimated native population is 550,000, while the Europeans, as taken at the last Census, numbered 1,600.

A series of wars took place from 1856 onwards between the Basuto and the inhabitants of the Orange Free State, and it was not until 1868, when he was hard pressed by the Boers, that Moshesh appealed to the British Government for help and the recognition of his people as British subjects. This was carried into effect in March, 1868, but in 1871 the territory was annexed to the Cape Colony and, after various disturbances, the Government of the Cape in April, 1880, extended the provisions of the Cape Peace Preservation Act of 1878 to Basutoland, which included a clause for the general disarmament of the Basuto. The Basuto, however, refused to accept the terms and, after a war lasting nearly a year, an agreement was arrived at by which the Act was repealed and certain fines inflicted on the tribe.

Although outwardly peace had been restored, there still remained several chiefs who would in no way accept the terms, and it was eventually decided by the Government of the Cape Colony to hand over the administration to the Imperial Government. This took effect on the 13th March, 1884. Since that date the territory has been governed by a Resident Commissioner under the direction of the High Commissioner for South Africa.

Languages.

The principal languages are English and Sesuto.

Currency.

The coin in circulation is mainly South African, but late South African Republic coins are occasionally met with. Central Reserve Bank notes are brought into the territory, but the local bank only re-issues the notes of joint stock banks. Gold coin is unlimited, but the demand is negligible. £12,500 in gold, £1,000 in silver, and £90 in copper coin was exported during the year by the Maseru branch of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

The amount of coin in circulation at the end of 1928 was between £40,000 and £50,000, and notes between £100,000 and £125,000.

The Imperial Coinage Act, 1920, is in force in the territory, re-enacted under the High Commissioner's Notice No. 63 of 1920.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in use in Basutoland are the British Imperial, but the Colonial ton of 2,000 lb. is also used.

I. GENERAL.

In September the aged Chief Jonathan died ; during the earlier wars alluded to in the preceding section this Chief had always been a loyal supporter of the Government and he commanded great respect from the tribe. His successor has been nominated by the Paramount Chief, but up to the time of writing the appointment has not been officially confirmed.

There were no faction fights of importance during the year.

A decision was given in the Privy Council regarding the succession of the sons of the late Chief Mojela in which the judgment of the Resident Commissioner's Court was upheld.

Two new appointments—a Judicial Commissioner and a Crown Prosecutor—were made during the year, the duties of these officers being divided between the High Commission Territories.

Drought.—The territory again suffered from a severe drought in the early spring and autumn ; the crop prospects are, however, fairly normal.

Basutoland Council.—The twenty-third session of the Basutoland National Council was held from the 29th September to the 6th October, 1928. The following were the more important subjects discussed :—

1. Agriculture—the appointment of additional Agricultural Demonstrators and the apathy of many leading chiefs towards Agricultural Shows.
2. Erection of dipping tanks.
3. Deferred pay at the mines—explanation of the “ Engcobo ” System.
4. Stricter enforcement of Leprosy Proclamation.
5. “ Placing ” of sons of chiefs.
6. Conservation of water.

II. FINANCE.**Revenue and Expenditure.**

The revenue for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to £306,399, and the expenditure to £294,874, an excess of revenue over expenditure of £11,525.

The balance of assets in excess of liabilities at the 31st March, 1928, was £105,659.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure during the past five financial years :—

REVENUE.

<i>Head.</i>	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
	£	£	£	£	£
Native Tax	134,698	127,531	139,776	132,072	137,744
Customs and Excise	71,043	76,765	84,196	87,352	92,201
Posts and Telegraphs	8,038	8,520	8,428	7,648	8,466
Licences	7,585	7,928	7,766	8,758	8,938
Fees of Court or Office	784	906	1,084	933	956
Judicial Fines	2,009	1,991	3,022	1,911	2,629
Income Tax	6,773	12,997	13,769	10,784	12,843
Fees for Services rendered	1,366	1,484	1,386	1,278	1,159
Interest	2,341	1,735	1,819	2,158	2,275
Wool Export Duty	14,128	17,189	15,421	17,141	17,918
Miscellaneous	3,857	3,962	4,915	4,369	7,913
Education Levy	—	—	—	—	13,357
Totals	£252,613	£261,008	£281,572	£274,404	£306,399

EXPENDITURE.

Head.	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28
	£	£	£	£	£
Resident Commissioner ...	13,758	13,692	13,829	13,811	12,532
District Administration ...	12,670	12,791	13,091	13,690	13,619
Police ...	36,189	36,756	37,507	39,164	39,160
Posts and Telegraphs ...	10,437	10,118	10,458	11,676	11,118
Administration of Justice ...	9,806	11,078	11,659	11,194	12,379
Public Works Department ...	6,526	5,665	5,616	5,218	5,147
Public Works Recurrent ...	20,990	22,153	23,778	25,669	23,044
Public Works Extraordinary ...	3,661	2,383	8,820	6,872	3,671
Medical ...	20,575	22,795	21,548	22,617	26,121
Education ...	34,813	35,836	40,113	41,412	54,871
Government Industrial School ...	2,437	2,429	2,486	2,508	6,566
Agriculture ...	21,806	22,927	28,780	27,659	30,874*
Allowances to Chiefs ...	12,448	12,323	11,994	11,691	12,002
National Council ...	1,950	2,193	2,037	1,909	1,641
Leper Settlement ...	20,036	19,077	19,306	19,401	19,558
Pensions ...	6,681	6,812	7,599	10,030	11,797
Miscellaneous ...	5,656	6,955	9,455	6,076	6,970
Capital Expenditure ...	1,230	4,214	—	2,030	3,804
Totals	£241,669	£250,197	£268,076	£272,627	£294,874

* Includes cost of measures taken for eradication of Scab.

INCOME TAX.

The rates of Normal and Super Tax remained the same as during the preceding financial year, and were imposed by the Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1925. The only enactment during the year under review dealing with Income Tax was the Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1928 (No. 14 of 1928), which levied the tax for the twelve months ending 30th June, 1928. The total collection of Income Tax was made up as follows :—

				£	s.	d.
Arrear Normal Tax	...	...	...	217	17	11
Current Normal Tax	...	...	...	10,084	14	11
Current Super Tax	...	...	...	2,540	8	1
				£12,843	0	11

The following table shows the sources from which taxable incomes were derived and the amount of tax paid from each source :—

				£	s.	d.
General Traders	...	...	...	9,803	0	9
Civil Servants	...	...	...	1,157	19	3
Employed Persons	...	...	...	1,012	14	2
Others, including Bank	...	...	...	467	0	4
Non-Residents	...	...	...	402	6	5
				£12,843	0	11

There is a noticeable decrease in the amount collected from non-residents.

The number of incomes assessed for current tax in the various categories were :—

<i>Number.</i>	<i>Category.</i>	<i>Total of Taxable Income.</i>	
		£	
63	£500 and under	...	23,776
59	£501—£750	...	25,482
28	£751—£1,000	...	24,738
24	£1,001—£1,500	...	28,591
6	£1,501—£2,000	...	10,330
11	£2,001—£4,000	...	27,832
9	Over £4,000	...	76,512
200	Total taxable income of persons assessed for current tax.	£217,261	

III. PRODUCTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Locust Destruction.—There have been no outbreaks of *voetgangers* during the year and no flying locusts were observed in Basutoland. The campaign against the “Elegant Grasshopper” which was carried out on the Maseru Reserve last year proved successful as these insects have not been nearly so numerous this season.

Reports of damage done to young wheat crops in parts of the Qacha's Nek district by the “Elegant Grasshopper” have been received, but the pest was quickly overcome on the arrival of the migratory storks.

Agricultural Shows.—An amount of £500 was provided for Agricultural Shows which were held at all Government Camps with the exception of Butha Buthe, Peka, and Mokhotlong.

The work of the Agricultural Demonstrators is already bearing fruit and is evinced by the keener interest taken by the people and the higher quality of the exhibits, the Produce Sections at all Shows showing a marked improvement.

Sheep and Goat Sections at all Shows were also better than usual owing to the keenness and co-operation of Scab Inspectors throughout the territory. The results of the Ram bounty Importation Scheme were also apparent.

Donga Prevention and Tree Planting.—The vote for these services was £1,500. Efforts to counter serious soil erosion and to check the growth of existing dongas were continued, several new works being undertaken.

At the close of the year there were some 253,251 trees in the various Government nurseries. During the year, 46,540 trees were issued to natives and others and 6,625 were planted on the various Government reserves.

Seed Wheat Bounty.—An amount of £500 was set aside as a bounty on seed wheat. The bounty was confined to imported seed, but owing to the severe droughts experienced it is feared that very few natives benefited from it.

Agricultural Demonstrators.—Thirteen Demonstrators are now employed in the various parts of the territory. Increasing interest is being taken in their work by the natives, many of whom are purchasing cultivators and planters and the exhibits at the produce sections of the various Shows are proof of the increasing number of converts to better agricultural methods.

General.—The maize and kaffir-corn crops were good. Wheat crops in the lowlands were almost a complete failure, though excellent crops were obtained in the mountain areas.

Among the growing crops a very bad attack of “Cut Worm” in mealies is responsible for many thin fields and poor prospects, as many natives had to sow their lands as many as three times owing to the ravages of this pest.

FORESTRY, FISHERIES, AND MINING.

There are no natural forests in Basutoland and no fisheries. No mining operations are carried on.

IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The following is a return of the imports into, and exports from, the territory by general traders during the calendar year 1928, the figures for 1927 being given for the purposes of comparison :—

IMPORTS.

	1927		1928	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
Merchandise	—	780,470	—	881,767
<i>Livestock.</i> —				
Horses, Mules, etc.	127	490	1,350	1,855
Cattle	2,747	6,947	4,772	11,239
Sheep and Goats	598	1,059	716	1,541
<i>Grain.</i> —	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat Meal... ..	5,925	9,506	6,920	10,460
Maize and Maize Meal	46,602	34,155	15,289	10,925
Kaffir Corn	8,452	9,631	3,399	3,124
<i>Other Produce</i>	—	635	—	663
Totals	—	£842,893	—	£921,574

EXPORTS.

	1927		1928	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		£		£
<i>Livestock.</i> —				
Horses, Mules, etc.	21	95	32	233
Cattle	1,981	9,620	1,538	7,165
Sheep and Goats	867	569	—	—
<i>Grain.</i> —	<i>Muids.</i>		<i>Muids.</i>	
Wheat and Wheat Meal... ..	103,568	115,455	118,280	131,414
Maize and Maize Meal	37,512	17,663	100,774	59,295
Kaffir Corn	22,062	20,020	30,969	18,530
Oats	55	23	56	37
Barley	67	35	138	86
Beans and Peas	3,458	3,521	2,371	3,166
<i>Wool and Mohair.</i> —	<i>Lb.</i>		<i>Lb.</i>	
Wool	12,906,789	508,687	12,725,153	610,750
Mohair	2,132,907	139,226	1,921,189	139,484
<i>Hides and Skins.</i> —				
Hides	492,626	18,289	607,428	31,817
Skins	217,351	5,356	406,480	11,002
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	—	538	—	413
Totals	—	£839,095	—	£1,013,392

OTHER STATISTICS.

Government imports during the year amounted to £50,059, as compared with £51,562 in 1927.

The total exports of wool and mohair during the year amounted to 14,927,616 lb., of which 14,646,342 lb. were exported by general traders.

GENERAL.

All imports by traders are made through wholesale houses in the Union of South Africa or by direct indent with wholesale houses overseas, and all exports are to the Union of South Africa. It is therefore impossible to give the origin of goods imported or the ultimate destination of goods exported.

With the exception of fuel, soap, motor-oil, and petrol which are purchased in the Union, all Government imports are made through the Crown Agents for the Colonies, London.

V. COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAYS.

There is only a small branch line from Marseilles (on the Bloemfontein-Natal main line) to Maseru, and only one mile of this is in Basutoland.

ROADS.

The reorganization of the staff, which was carried out during 1927, has resulted in general improvement in the condition of the roads; re-gravelling has been carried out almost continuously, additional culverts have been built, and a number of low-lying sections have been built up.

The increase in the number of motor-lorries during the year is very noticeable and, though the travelling public appear satisfied that progress is being made it is realised that the growth of motor transport will call for continued improvement.

The reinforced-concrete bridge across the Telle River on the Quthing-Cape Province border has been completed by the Public Works Department of the Union of South Africa, and has greatly improved the communications of this part of the territory. The Administration of Basutoland bore half the cost of this work.

POSTAL.

All districts in Basutoland are linked up with Maseru by telegraph and telephone lines with the exception of Qacha's Nek, which is connected by telegraph and telephone with Matatiele in East Griqualand. The systems are owned by the Basutoland Government. Both telegraph and telephones are used by the general public and public telephone call offices are attached to each post office.

There are ten telegraph offices in the territory and 154½ miles of telegraph wire. During 1928 telegraph messages numbering 60,965 were dealt with as follows:—cables 296; Government telegrams 2,758; ordinary 24,368; transmitted 13,180; received 20,363.

There are ten central telephone offices with telephones in service. The length of local exchange wire is $84\frac{1}{2}$ miles and long-distance wire $410\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The net postal, telegraph, and telephone revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to £8,465, as compared with £7,648 for the year 1926-27, and the expenditure amounted to £11,117, as compared with £11,676 for the year 1926-27.

The following table shows the number of deposits in, and withdrawals from, the Post Office Savings Bank for the last two years :—

<i>Deposits.</i>	<i>Withdrawals.</i>
1926-27 = 1,587, value £6,925	923, value £7,404
1927-28 = 1,845, value £9,187	867, value £6,540

The following comparative table shows the number and value of money and postal orders issued and paid during the past two years :—

<i>Issued.</i>	<i>Paid.</i>
1926-27 = 32,225, value £28,611	65,457, value £74,003
1927-28 = 32,597, value £29,905	47,427, value £53,377

VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

During the year, two new appointments, a Judicial Commissioner and a Crown Prosecutor, were made, the duties of these officers being divided between the three High Commission Territories.

During the year under review 2,914 crimes were reported or known to the Police, the number of persons proceeded against being 2,737, as compared with 2,185 and 2,456, respectively, for the year 1927. Convictions in Magisterial Courts numbered 2,162 and in the Resident Commissioner's Court 37, as compared with 2,080 and 95, respectively, in 1927.

The following table shows the number of convictions for various crimes and offences during the last four years :—

<i>In Magisterial Courts.</i>	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Offences against the person ...	125	97	287	438
Offences against property ...	327	244	272	253
Offences against liquor laws ...	48	52	37	42
Other crimes ...	1,446	1,409	1,484	1,429
<i>In the Resident Commissioner's Court.</i>	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Murder ...	4	6	1	1
Culpable Homicide ...	18	38	24	20
Attempted Murder ...	—	—	1	4
Rape ...	2	2	—	2
Unnatural Crime ...	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	13	11	4	2
Offences against property with violence to the person.	84	298	48	4
Other offences against property...	28	41	15	3
Other crimes ...	1	1	—	—

POLICE.

The Police Force consists of native non-commissioned officers and men under European Officers.

PRISONS.

There are seven gaols and three lock-ups in the territory, and 2,597 prisoners passed through them during the year, as compared with 2,401 in 1927.

VII. PUBLIC WORKS.

Repairs to Government buildings in the Leribe, Butha Buthe, Peka, and Teyateyaneng Camps have been carried out, and the Government Hospitals at Maseru, Leribe, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek have been re-painted and repaired. All other works carried out during the year were of minor importance.

WATER WORKS.

The Qacha's Nek Water Supply Scheme, which was commenced in 1927, was completed during the year and brings in a supply of 20,000 gallons per diem.

Owing to the severe drought, difficulty has been experienced in maintaining adequate supplies.

The water supplies in the Teyateyaneng, Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek Camps have diminished to such an alarming extent that the whole question has had to receive special consideration.

The main contributory factors in the decrease are, firstly, the gradual drying-up of springs throughout the territory, due to the decreased rainfall and general overstocking, and, secondly, from the yearly increased demand for water in each camp owing to the growth of the population. Other factors are old and faulty piping and insufficient reservoir storage accommodation.

As Teyateyaneng Camp is situated on the top of a sandstone ridge and is considerably higher than the surrounding country, the water supply is dependent on bore-holes, as a gravitation scheme—even if suitable springs on nearby mountains existed—would be too expensive and probably would not, in any case, yield a sufficient supply.

Maseru, which has a supply of spring water, led from some eight miles away, as well as a river-water supply pumped up from the Caledon River, has suffered very severely during the past year. Owing to the severe droughts experienced during the spring and early summer, the spring-water supply became seriously diminished and, with the exception of the Government Hospital, the whole township had to be cut off from the mains all day save from 6 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 9 p.m., and even then water failed to reach many consumers.

The river-water supply pumping plant, which has been in operation for some 15 years, has become so worn out that, despite constant repairs, it was not running for more than an average of one day per week, and the shortage of spring-water was accentuated by the fact that it was used by many consumers for purposes for which river-water would, under normal circumstances, have sufficed.

In Mohale's Hoek, where the shortage was principally due to mechanical defects in the pumping plant, measures have been taken to effect the necessary repairs.

GENERAL.

Owing to the almost general shortage of water, it was decided to call for the opinion of an expert, and it is proposed within the course of the next year to sink bore-holes at the various centres with a view to ensuring a more constant supply, and provision is being made for the replacement of the Maseru River pumping plant.

VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH.

During the year, 2,332 patients were treated in the hospitals, showing a decrease of 267 as compared with the previous year. This decrease was due to the fact that the Maseru, Mafeteng, and Mohale's Hoek hospitals were in turn closed, to all intents and purposes, for renovation from July to the end of October. The hospital at Qacha's Nek was closed in November for a time on account of the shortage of water.

The European patients during the year numbered 102; as usual, most of them were surgical cases. The deaths during the year numbered 169. The number of patients treated in the out-patients department was 66,080, showing an increase of 3,019 over the previous year. The number of vaccinations during the year was 2,003. The revenue collected in hospital and dispensary fees was £2,835 4s. 6d.

The following table details the above quoted total :—

<i>District.</i>				<i>In-patients.</i>	<i>Out-patients.</i>	<i>Vaccinations.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	
							£	s. d.
Maseru	...	...	...	863	14,509	—	809	1 3
Leribe	...	...	...	438	12,933	—	539	11 6
Mafeteng	...	...	...	355	12,787	—	539	1 0
Mohale's Hoek	...	...	...	253	6,747	74	290	3 0
Quthing	...	...	...	268	8,089	1,730	278	5 0
Qacha's Nek	...	...	...	155	3,657	199	125	2 0
Teyateyaneng	...	...	...	—	7,358	—	254	0 9
Totals	...	...	...	2,332	66,080	2,003	£2,835	4 6

As regards the health of the territory, there has been no epidemic of any nature. Cases of enteric fever were reported in every district, the total number of cases being 575. Inoculations against this disease were carried out in each instance when an outbreak occurred.

There was not a single case of small-pox reported in the country, but, on the other hand, 76 cases of scarlet fever were reported. Of the other epidemic, endemic, and infectious diseases, the number of cases were as follows :—

Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1,016
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	311
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	189
Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	33
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tetanus	...	...	...	...	...	1

There was a small outbreak of diphtheria in the north of the Territory, but no deaths were reported. Antitoxin was immediately supplied. There were many cases of whooping cough amongst the Europeans, affecting both children and adults; many natives were also victimised. The cases of measles were not many. There were 13 cases of anthrax, but this was due to the carelessness of the natives. There was a slight increase in the number of venereal diseases, but these were not out of proportion to the great increase in the number of cases treated.

The general health of the Government native employees and also of the prisoners has been good.

During the year, the number of rodents destroyed was 6,444, but there was no suspicion of any case of plague in Basutoland.

Sanitary measures were adopted in Mafeteng for the benefit of the natives, and it is hoped to do the same in Butha Buthe during the coming year.

LEPER SETTLEMENT.

On the 31st December, 1927, the population of the Settlement was 496, consisting of 237 males and 259 females. On the 31st December, 1928, there were 243 males and 283 females, making a total of 526, showing an increase of population of 30.

The changes of the population throughout the year are indicated in the following table :—

	<i>Admitted.</i>	<i>Re-admitted.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Deserted.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>
Males ...	58	9	21	5	35
Females ...	57	7	14	6	20
Totals...	115	16	35	11	55

The following is the corresponding table for the year 1927 :—

	<i>Admitted.</i>	<i>Re-admitted.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Deserted.</i>	<i>Discharged.</i>
Males ...	51	12	36	23	14
Females ...	54	7	18	12	19
Totals...	105	19	54	35	33

The increase in the number of patients was 10. There was a decrease in the number of those re-admitted of 3, a decrease of 19 in those who died, a decrease of 24 of those who deserted, and there was a happy increase of 22 of those who were discharged. So that the increase of the population at the end of the year is not entirely accounted for by the increase of the number of admittances.

It will be noted that, whilst the number of deaths amongst the males last year was double that of the females, this year the proportion is as three to two. The number of desertions has decreased by more than two thirds, which would seem to show that the inhabitants are more or less satisfied with their surroundings.

As has been mentioned before, the increase in the number of those discharged is a testimony of the good work which is being done by the Medical Officer.

IX. EDUCATION.

The new system, by which is meant the re-classification of the schools in the territory and the enlargement of the Inspectorate, has now been in operation for a full year and it is consequently possible profitably to examine some of its results.

Schools were divided at the beginning of 1928 into Elementary (Grades I-VI) and Intermediate (Grades I-VI and Standards IV-VI). Previously all schools had been allowed to teach up to Standard VI. The effect of this new classification is apparent in Tables I, III, and IV. The increase in pupils has fallen to 196; the number of large schools has increased by 16 and many others have decreased in size.

The average number of pupils on the roll has dropped by over 300 in comparison with the previous year, which shows that many pupils who had taken Standard III did not continue their studies.

It was found that complaints were made of the insufficiency of Intermediate Schools, and at the meeting of the Board of Advice on Education in November it was decided to increase their number by eight. The building of the Government Intermediate Schools at Maseru and Mafeteng is progressing satisfactorily and it is expected that they will be opened at the beginning of the third quarter. These Schools will admit Standard IV-VI pupils only and it is hoped that they will relieve the congestion in the Mission Intermediate Schools.

Since many native parents wished their children to continue their education above Standard III without necessarily taking the full intermediate course, it was decided that in 1929 200 selected Elementary Schools should be allowed to teach up to Standard IV.

The effect of the enlargement of the Inspectorate has been seen in the number of inspections carried out during the year (650 as compared with 340 in 1927 and 270 in 1926). Teachers are being shown how to make the best of their abilities and resources, the syllabus is more carefully followed, and lazy dishonest work is becoming rarer. No similar advance can be reported in the school buildings and equipment which on the whole are still distinctly poor owing to the impecuniosity of the Missions.

The annual reports of the Mission Institutions relate of satisfactory progress. Leloaleng has had an exceptionally good year, but the agricultural course is not popular with the boys. At Morija, on the other hand, the agricultural section is in a more flourishing state, a number of pupils being engaged in this branch of work. Morija has also had very satisfactory results in the external examinations. Reports from Cana are excellent and at Thabana Morena many awards for industrial work were gained at the camp exhibitions. Agriculture is making great strides at Masite, and Maseru (St. Catherine's) has had a satisfactory year.

The new bursary system, by which the sons of poor and deserving parents who take good places in the annual Standard VI examination are given bursaries at Morija, Roma, and Masite, is proving its worth to the full. There is no doubt that in this way the right type of candidate is being selected, the type likely to take the good in higher native education and leave the bad.

STATISTICS.

The average attendance of pupils in schools and institutions is now 34,330 and the number of scholars on the roll is 46,606.

The following table shows the average attendance of pupils during the last ten years :—

Table I.

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Average Attendance.</i>	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Decrease.</i>
1919	...	...	22,556	1,396	—
1920	...	...	23,479	932	—
1921	...	...	22,586	—	893
1922	...	...	23,424	838	—
1923	...	...	26,124	2,700	—
1924	...	...	29,267	3,143	—
1925	...	...	30,005	738	—
1926	...	...	33,074	3,069	—
1927	...	...	34,134	1,060	—
1928	...	...	34,330	196	—

Table II.

Grants to Missions for schools and institutions for the year ending 31st December, 1928, were as follows :—

	£
Paris Evangelical Society (Missionary) ...	24,832
Roman Catholic Mission ...	7,896
Church of England Mission ...	3,716
	£36,444

Table III.

Elementary and Intermediate Schools according to size and denomination :—

Mission.	Over 200	150 200	100 150	70 100	60 70	45 60	25 45	20 25	Under 20	Total.
P.E.M.S. ...	14	11	45	67	32	47	98	28	17	359
R.C. ...	9	3	11	11	14	17	38	3	7	113
C. of E. ...	1	1	7	6	10	14	13	5	3	60
Total ...	24	15	63	84	56	78	149	36	27	532
+ or -	+ 16	- 15	- 5	0	0	+ 3	+ 11	- 12	+ 1	- 1

The increases and decreases as compared with 1927 are given under each column. The increase in the number of large schools is due to the creation of Intermediate Schools. Of the above, 28 are Intermediate Schools and 504 Elementary Schools.

Table IV.

Enrolment of pupils in Intermediate and Elementary Schools :—

Mission.	Average number of pupils on roll, year ending September, 1927.			Average number of pupils on roll, year ending September, 1928.		
	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
P.E.M.S. ...	10,652	21,892	32,544	10,919	20,804	31,723
R.C. ...	2,145	6,825	8,970	2,418	7,218	9,636
C. of E. ...	1,507	3,178	4,685	1,418	2,968	4,386
Totals ...	14,304	31,895	46,199	14,755	30,990	45,745

The total of 45,745 is 454 less than in the previous year. This decrease is due to the creation of Intermediate Schools and to the fact that the Elementary Schools were not allowed to take Standard IV and above.

GENERAL.

The usual outbreaks of strangles, gallsickness, and biliary fever have been successfully treated.

During the year, 2,242,918 sheep and goats were dipped and over half a million were subjected to "table inspection." Sheep and goats exported from Basutoland to the various provinces of the Union totalled 8,683.

During the year, 2,066 professional visits and attendances were made by the Principal Veterinary Officer.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS.

The following proclamations were promulgated during the year:—

(1) No. 3.—Basutoland Auditor's Pension Proclamation, 1928.

(2) No. 5.—Basutoland Further Appropriation (1926–1927) Proclamation, 1928.

(3) No. 7.—Basutoland Customs Tariff (Amendment) Proclamation, 1928.

(4) No. 10.—Basutoland Court of Resident Commissioner Proclamation, 1928.

(5) No. 13.—Basutoland Appropriation Proclamation, 1928.

(6) No. 14.—Basutoland Income Tax Proclamation, 1928.

(7) No. 17.—Amending Schedule to Proclamation No. 16 of 1907, to provide for the stamping of Auxiliary or Collateral Bonds.

(8) No. 26.—Establishing the Office of Crown Prosecutor in Basutoland.

(9) No. 27.—Amending the Basutoland Sheep and Goats Importation Restriction Proclamation, 1927.

(10) No. 28.—Basutoland Trading Proclamation, 1928.—Consolidating and amending the Law.

(11) No. 31.—Basutoland Police Offences Proclamation, 1928.

(12) No. 32.—Government Reserves Regulations (Basutoland) Proclamation, 1928.

R. M. BOSWORTH SMITH,

Government Secretary.

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FOR THE YEAR
1928

BY
R. J. B. CLAYTON, M. C. S.
British Adviser

SINGAPORE:
Printed at the MALAYA PUBLISHING HOUSE, LTD.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

I. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY	..	..	..	Paras.	1—8
II. GENERAL	..	..	..	Paras.	9—12
III. FINANCE	..	..	..	Paras.	13—18
IV. PRODUCTION	..	..	..	Paras.	19—27
V. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	..	..	..	Paras.	28—33
VI. COMMUNICATIONS	..	..	..	Paras.	34—37
VII. JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS			..	Paras.	38—40
VIII. PUBLIC WORKS	..	..	..	Paras.	41—43
IX. PUBLIC HEALTH	..	..	..	Paras.	44—49
X. EDUCATION	..	..	..	Paras.	50—52
XI. LAND AND SURVEYS	..	..	..	Paras.	53—62
XII. LABOUR	..	..	..	Paras.	63—69
XIII. MISCELLANEOUS	..	..	..	Paras.	70—73

APPENDICES (A)—DETAILED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

(B)—MAP OF KELANTAN.

KELANTAN

Administration Report for the year 1928

I. HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

1. Little is known of the early history of Kelantan but the name is said to be derived from the two Malay words "Gelam Hutan"; a species of swampy jungle, (*Melaleuca Leucadendron*) which originally covered much of the coastal area.

A Chinese Chronicler CHAO JE KUA, writing about the year 1225, mentions it as subject to the Sumatran Kingdom of Palembang. Portuguese and Dutch maps of the 16th century give the name, and some show a town near the coast, but references to the country are few. Towards the end of the 18th century, the Siamese established suzerainty, which continued till 1909, when it was transferred to Great Britain and a British Adviser,—“whose advice the Sultan undertakes to follow in all matters of administration other than those touching the Mohammedan religion and local Malay custom”—appointed.

The present ruler is His Highness the Sultan Sir ISMAIL IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN MOHAMED, IV, K.C.M.G., who succeeded his father in 1920.

2. The State, (of which a map is annexed) lies on the Eastern coast of the Malay Peninsula between latitudes $4^{\circ} 35'$ and $6^{\circ} 15'$ North and longitudes $101^{\circ} 22'$ and $102^{\circ} 37'$ East, and is bounded on the North by the China Sea, on the East by the China Sea and the State of Trengganu, on the South by the State of Pahang, and on the West by the State of Perak, and the Patani district of Southern Siam. It has a greatest length from North to South of 115 miles and a greatest breadth from East to West of 60 miles; the total area being 5,713 square miles.

The State Capital is Kota Bharu, situated some six miles from the mouth of the Kelantan river and containing 12,000 inhabitants. Kuala Krai is the headquarters of the Southern and Pasir Puteh of the Eastern, Administrative District.

3. Behind a low sandy coast line of some 60 miles in length, lies a fertile plain of about 1,000 square miles in area, densely

populated, and closely cultivated with rice, coconut and fruit trees. South of this plain the country is hilly and broken, the highest hills being those of the main range of the Peninsula, which forms the boundary with Perak, and the Tahan range on the Pahang border, many peaks exceeding 6,000 feet in height. This part of the State is thinly populated, but contains the bulk of the foreign owned estates. Owing to the difficulty of river navigation, and the complete absence of other means of communication it has, until recently, remained almost inaccessible but is now being opened to settlers by the Federated Malay States (East Coast) Railway.

4. The population, which is predominantly Malay, and Kelantan-born, was at the 1921 Census 309,300, of whom 286,363 were Malays and of these 278,989 Kelantanese. Of 12,000 Chinese half were born in Kelantan, and practically all of the 6,000 Siamese. Europeans number about 160.

5. The predominant industry is agriculture and the most important product rice. Next in importance are rubber, copra and dried betel nut, while there is also an export of cattle and poultry.

Other local industries are fishing and weaving. There is, as yet, no mining worth mention though prospecting for iron and tin is in progress.

6. As compared with the Western States of Malaya the climate may be described as hot, dry and bracing. Temperatures were recorded at 3 and rainfall at 14 stations, but no figures are available for the high lands further South. Temperature as high as 102 F and as low as 61 F has been recorded in past years but this is unusual. During 1928 the highest mean monthly temperature recorded was 95.19° F at Kota Bharu in October and the lowest 68.42° F at Tumpat in December. The mean annual temperature recorded at Channing, the only inland station for which records are available, was 75.92° F. During the greater part of the year the heat is mitigated by a cool breeze.

The average monthly rainfall recorded at these Stations varied from 8.63 inches to 15.85 inches, with a distinctly drier season from March to August. The average annual rainfall over the whole State (exclusive of the higher hills) is probably about 103 inches, though as much as 223 inches has been registered at some stations in abnormal years. In December 1928 62.45 inches were recorded at one station and there was an average rainfall of between 30 and 50 inches throughout the State.

7. The principal language is Malay, which is spoken and understood by all but a small minority of Immigrant Indian and Chinese labourers.

8. Straits Settlements' currency, monetary units and weights and measures are in use but a locally minted coin called "Pitis" made from an alloy of tin and lead, ranking in value at 1/5 of a cent, is still current in the bazaar, though no longer manufactured.

II. GENERAL.

9. During the first two months of the year there seemed every prospect of the estimated revenue being greatly exceeded but the restriction of rubber exports, combined with the announcement of the abandonment of the Restriction policy in November, resulted in a set back. Though less dependent than some other parts of Malaya on rubber, this set back is reflected in a reduced demand for new land, an adverse balance of trade, a reduced consumption of most "luxury" articles and a decrease in Post Office business. That despite this the revenue receipts were the highest ever recorded, is chiefly due to the operation for a full year of the (1927) revised Customs Tariff, and an increase in "Fees of Office" and "Municipal" Revenue.

10. At the close of the year 1926 Kelantan suffered from an unprecedented flood, the coastal plain being inundated by water flowing north from the mountain ranges. In 1927 there was, after the 1926 water had run out, no serious flooding but just at the close of 1928 another flood was experienced. Fortunately this was due chiefly to heavy local rain and high tides and not to flood water from Southern Kelantan, so that, although the capital (Kota Bharu) and other parts of the coastal plain were flooded to within a few inches of the 1926—1927 record, there was a far less violent current and the damage caused was comparatively trifling.

11. The appointment in June of an Officer with legal training as Judicial Commissioner and Legal Adviser Kelantan, to preside over the High Court and commence the work of redrafting and codifying the laws of Kelantan, marks a distinct forward step in the constitution, the effects of which will become more and more apparent in the next few years.

12. By the accidental death on June 5th of Mr. R. G. B. Farrer, M.C.S., District Officer, Pasir Puteh, both the State and the Malayan Civil Service lost an officer of outstanding ability who had

already made his mark in Malaya though only in the 8th year of his service.

III. FINANCE.

13. The following table gives the annual revenue and expenditure since the State came under British protection:—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
		\$	\$
1910	..	419,327	403,552
1911	..	487,467	574,850
1912	..	535,669	665,608
1913	..	676,020	672,137
1914	..	762,772	805,965
1915	..	692,556	807,714
1916	..	822,860	808,164
1917	..	910,291	757,946
1918	..	955,402	899,161
1919	..	1,141,444	1,065,012
1920	..	1,328,955	1,403,208
1921	..	1,160,262	1,678,432
1922	..	1,310,020	1,539,318
1923	..	1,396,855	1,271,887
1924	..	1,422,113	1,442,032
1925	..	1,804,180	1,401,961
1926	..	2,371,595	1,927,134
1927	..	2,448,090	2,949,438*
1928	..	2,570,550	2,463,762

*Includes a sum of \$320, 000 devoted to reduction of the Public Debt.

14. *Revenue.* As will be seen from the statement given below the only revenue increases worthy of note were under "Licence, Excise etc." "Fees of Office" and "Municipal." Of these increases, the first was due almost entirely to revised methods of accounting for Chandu Revenue, a new provision of \$150,000 having been entered on the expenditure side, and the second to the collection of the arrears of survey fees due from the Duff Development Company. The third was a most satisfactory and permanent increase of revenue due to the sale of electric current and the opening of new Municipal Markets. The heaviest decrease was under "Miscellaneous Receipts," an item which flood relief measures had swelled to abnormal proportions in 1927.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUE FOR THE YEARS 1927 AND 1928.

Heads of Revenue.	Estimates, 1928.	Revenue, 1928.	Revenue, 1927.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land Revenue	620,725	575,535	568,551	6,984	..
Customs	867,000	820,570	811,439	9,131	..
Port Dues	10,000	7,093	7,311	..	218
Licence Excise, etc. ..	754,650	790,019	640,050	149,969	..
Fees of Office, etc. ..	121,225	125,084	89,439	35,645	..
Posts and Telegraphs ..	119,050	112,965	127,142	..	14,177
Interest	21,920	20,953	27,780	..	6,827
Miscellaneous Receipts	3,900	33,417	118,928	..	85,511
Municipal	59,950	84,914	57,450	27,464	..
	2,578,420	2,570,550	2,448,090	122,460	

15. There was no alteration in the basis of taxation.

16. *Expenditure.* In expenditure, the major items of increase were under "Personal Emoluments" (due to the operation of incremental schemes and increase of staff, especially in the Technical Departments. "Other Charges" (due to the revised method of accounting referred to in para 14 and the cost of the Electric Light supply) and "Special Services, Roads, Streets and Bridges" (due to the construction of new roads and permanent bridges). The decreases were due to necessary curtailment of expenditure on Public Works and to the reduction of the Public Debt effected in 1927.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEARS
1927 AND 1923.

Heads of Expenditure.	Estimates, 1928.	Expendi- ture, 1928.	Expendi- ture, 1927.	Increase.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Pensions and Retired Allowances	100,167	98,963	93,105	5,858	..
Personal Emoluments	783,590	742,639	691,788	50,851	..
Other Charges	702,090	611,390	458,545	152,845	..
Interest	20,000	10,000	25,400	..	15,400
Transport	2,000	2,403	1,869	534	..
Compensation for Land and crops	10,000	23,471	50,829	..	27,358
Miscellaneous	81,213	112,565	90,000	22,565	..
Works and Buildings—Annually Recurrent	45,900	47,100	63,016	..	15,916
Roads, Streets and Bridges—Annually Recurrent	111,000	110,117	229,299	..	119,182
Works and Buildings—Special Services	325,150	184,141	365,211	..	181,070
Roads, Streets and Bridges—Special Services	470,500	363,939	286,194	77,745	..
Repayments of Loans (Straits Settlements)	..	..	320,000	..	320,000
Special Expenditure	..	31,195	150,951	..	119,756
Temporary Allowance	120,000	125,839	123,231	2,608	..
	2,771,610	2,463,762	2,949,438	..	485,676

17. A sum of \$229,338 was invested in the purchase of £25,000 of the British 5% 1929-47 War Loan.

The external indebtedness of the State was \$4,080,684, of which \$3,880,684 is the sum advanced in 1926 (interest-free for five years) by the Straits Settlements Government to enable the State to satisfy the Duff Arbitration Award and of which no part was spent in Kelantan.

A detailed statement of assets and liabilities is given as an Appendix.

18. There is a branch of the Mercantile Bank of India in the State Capital, Kota Bharu, and arrangements for the establishment of a Post Office Savings Bank were almost complete at the end of the year.

IV. PRODUCTION.

A. AGRICULTURAL.

19. *Rice.* Kelantan, which was previously self supporting as regards rice, has of recent years been compelled to prohibit all export of rice or padi, except under licence, and to import a steadily in-

creasing quota for local consumption. The seasons have been unfavourable; much of the soil on which this crop is grown is poor; in some areas effective irrigation, and in others drainage, is almost impossible; and there is a tendency to plant up the less productive rice lands with other crops.

Although seed selection is being tried with promising results, the steady increase of population and the lack of new lands suitable for rice cultivation on a large scale, make it, despite the acknowledged industry of the Kelantanese peasant, improbable that the State will ever again grow enough rice for its own needs.

Crop statistics are most disappointing; in the 1925—1926 season 158,250 acres produced 25,000,000 gantangs; in the 1926—1927 season 173,987 acres produced 18,751,000 gantangs, the reason given being that much of the crop was destroyed by flood; in the 1927—1928 season despite favourable reports from all quarters, the collected figures give only a production of 18,828,000 gantangs for 175,372 acres planted.

The 1928—1929 crop, now being reaped, has suffered from late rains, then flood, and finally drought, and seems likely to be a very poor one.

20. *Rubber.* Unauthorised planting or interplanting of rubber on lands not alienated for that purpose has made it impossible to give closely accurate figures for those areas under rubber which have not yet reached the productive stage but the total area under cultivation with this crop is approximately 75,000 acres, of which 40,327 acres are mature and 10,343 acres immature but capable of production. Rather more than half the total planted area is Asiatic owned and comprised in small holdings. With the fall in the price of rubber, the demand for new land on which to plant it fell off rapidly and only 7,021 acres were alienated during the year for this cultivation.

The operation of restriction during the first 10 months of the year, and the cessation of tapping by many Asiatic rubber owners when the price fell, combined to cause a large decrease in the rubber export figures both as regards quantity and value.

21. *Cocoanuts and Betel Nuts.* There has been little change as regards the area planted with these products, the cultivation of which is confined almost entirely to the already fully developed coastal plain, but the fall in the price of rubber reduced local consumption and resulted in an unprecedented quantity of both copra and dried betel nut being exported.

22. Fruit orchards, ground nuts, tobacco and many other minor agricultural products flourish but there is no surplus available for export.

The approximate acreages under cultivation during 1928 were:—

Rice.	Rubber.	Cocoanuts.	Fruit Orchards.	Miscellaneous and grazing land.	Total.
175,372	75,000	57,200	30,000	50,000	387,572

23. Kelantan is a good grass country with an excellent breed of cattle and buffaloes and a less excellent one of goats and sheep. Unfortunately sporadic cases of Anthrax greatly hampered the export trade just at the moment when the demand for Kelantan cattle was at its height and also discouraged breeders. The export trade was halved and the cattle and buffalo census taken in June gave a total of only 134,521 head as against 135,000 last year. The export of poultry, which had reached a record figure in 1927, also fell off owing to fowl cholera, but it would appear probable that large scale dairy farming on scientific lines would offer a profitable investment.

B. FORESTRY.

24. The more accessible forests of Kelantan are poor in respect of Chengai and Merbau, the most highly valued of Malayan commercial timber, while the devastation of the wild rubber and gum forests has made it necessary, except in the case of Jelutong, to prohibit all exploitation of these jungle products for the present, but Resak, Kumus, Kruin, Seraya and Kulim are plentiful, as is also Tembusu. Kelantan is at present an importer of timber and without a trained Forestry Department, but the popularisation of the less well known timbers referred to above and the opening up of Southern Kelantan may entirely alter the position. The forest royalty collected amounted to \$69,402. The total area of reserved Forest was 91,000 acres and the reservation of further areas is in hand.

C. FISHERIES.

25. For tropical waters in which the lack of nitrogen inhibits the growth of water weed and the supply of plankton, both sea and rivers are well stocked with fish. The exposed and harbourless coast, the presence of coral, and the distance from markets, however combine to discourage fishing by any but primitive native methods and although there is a large "fleet" of native fishing boats, the catch is all consumed locally or exported as salt fish. In the two local markets for which figures are available, the sale of fresh fish amounted to 1,085 tons during the year but this, of course, represents but a small fraction of the local consumption.

D. MINING.

26. Although 3,038 acres are held on mining title and prospecting licences are now extant over an area of 66,226 acres the production of tin ore is as yet small, only $71\frac{1}{2}$ pikuls being exported in 1928 as against $58\frac{3}{4}$ pikuls in 1927.

Gold was at one time worked and exported but of recent years there has been no export of gold or of other metals, except tin. There are however prospects of iron ore (Hematite) being worked on a large scale. A further note on mining appears under Geological Survey (para 62).

27. As elsewhere in Malaya basket and mat making is carried on but the outstanding "Cottage Industry" of the State is the weaving of silk and cotton piece goods both for local use and for export. The following table is a good guide to Kelantan's productive activities, except as regards Padi and rice, the export of which is not permitted.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF LOCAL PRODUCTION AND EXPORT FOR FIVE YEARS.

No.	Article	How stated.	1924. Quantity.	1924. Value.	1925. Quantity.	1925. Value.	1926. Quantity.	1926. Value.	1927. Quantity.	1927. Value.	1928. Quantity.	1928. Value.
1.	Rubber	..	..	\$ 3,356,560	65,960	\$ 9,314,227	103,634	\$ 10,419,532	98,327	\$ 7,796,450	95,004	\$ 4,030,150
2.	Copra	..	..	1,298,453	86,623	891,895	93,609	1,070,286	82,521	674,814	150,414	1,362,412
3.	Betel-nuts:—(a) Dried	..	..	340,388	41,812	630,147	47,078	667,078	14,698	96,910	54,722	382,059
	(b) Fresh	..	..	1,107	..	675	..	..	..	1,502	..	2,000
4.	Rice and Padi	..	..	29,095	180	620	210	754	10	47	123	912
5.	Timber and Planks	..	..	1,856	..	27	..	601	..	653	..	121
6.	Cattle	..	..	12,752	571	22,512	766	36,230	1,973	108,752	848	29,849
7.	Jungle Produce	..	..	9,135	..	9,254	..	6,765	..	12,309	..	12,481
8.	Fish	..	..	152,170	12,073	122,936	12,625	152,681	12,832	128,352	12,784	127,819
9.	Poultry	..	..	22,130	3,978	14,491	3,049	12,026	6,480	25,915	3,747	14,990
10.	Tin-Ore	..	..	..	20	1,752	8	767	59	6,500	71	6,014
11.	Gold	..	..	740	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12.	Textiles:—(a) Silk	..	..	38,500	65	10,423	595	59,505	532	53,201	243	22,278
	(b) Cotton	..	..	37,623	1,197	46,540	218	8,750	..	13,220	..	41,150

V. TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

28. *Trade*.—Both import and export trade is almost entirely with Singapore, though a proportion of our imported rice comes direct from Siam, and since the opening of railway communication, Penang has captured a minute share thereof.

The total value of trade again fell from \$15,551,771 in 1927 to \$13,560,005 in 1928, the reduction being entirely in the export trade and due to the reduced value of the rubber export which was \$4,030,150, as against \$7,796,449 in 1927 and \$10,419,532 in 1926. For the first time during the decade there was an unfavourable balance of trade. Invisible exports are negligible. Detailed trade returns have been published separately but the total comparative figures for the last five years are given below.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Imports	3,570,668	5,211,103	5,682,902	6,530,025	7,356,769
Exports	5,407,674	11,185,696	12,518,719	9,021,746	6,213,236
Total Trade	8,975,362	16,396,799	18,201,621	15,551,771	13,560,005

29. As apart from the reduced value of the rubber export, the most striking features of the export trade were the large increases under Copra, dried Betel-nut and cotton textiles and the reductions under cattle and poultry.

30. Of the import trade the most notable increases were under "Rice," "Benzine," "Petroleum," "Textiles," "Machinery," "Cement," "Drugs and Medicines" and "Tobacco" and the most noticeable decrease under "Motor Vehicles," in regard to which item, as I indicated in my last year's report, the saturation point appears to have been, for the present, reached. The purchasing power of the State has so far held good but a continued adverse balance of trade would rapidly reduce it.

31. If read with the export table given under "Production" the annexed import table very clearly presents the general trade position.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF IMPORT FOR FIVE YEARS.

No.	Article	How stated.	1924. Quantity.	1924. Value. \$	1925. Quantity.	1925. Value. \$	1926. Quantity.	1926. Value. \$	1927. Quantity.	1927. Value. \$	1928. Quantity.	1928. Value. \$
1.	Fish	Pikuls	3,910	39,575	4,108	41,061	3,530	44,091	3,800	49,378	2,217	26,609
2.	Rice	"	11,303	76,770	85,985	617,900	130,022	988,733	236,705	1,656,937	334,478	1,341,412
3.	Benzine	Gallons	66,355	66,487	82,700	82,864	114,425	114,425	226,512	226,512	270,936	270,300
4.	Petroleum	"	393,880	272,452	53,930 cases	387,306	36,472 cases	218,835	64,230 cases	366,095	73,073 cases	398,979
5.	Textiles (all kinds)	"	..	917,627	..	1,097,300	..	915,398	..	639,943	..	703,184
6.	Machinery	"	..	23,764	..	34,400	..	59,655	..	71,575	..	131,524
7.	Motor Vehicles	"	..	95,750	..	186,200	..	164,075	..	106,038	..	31,220
8.	Cement	Casks	2,392	12,803	2,527	15,257	5,263	35,444	12,453	74,716	23,797	119,695
9.	Timber and Planks	"	..	60,045	..	56,014	..	73,797	..	106,642	..	46,163
10.	Drugs and Medicine	"	..	37,309	..	44,274	..	76,208	..	67,450	..	148,849
11.	Bread and Biscuits	"	..	30,045	..	48,213	..	55,816	..	45,600	..	57,203
12.	Curry Stuffs	"	..	17,000	..	16,517	..	25,937	..	30,828	..	52,383
13.	Wheat Flour	Pikuls	6,766	60,613	8,995	89,653	11,961	77,128	14,352	100,464	9,146	91,665
14.	Tinned Milk	Cases	8,157	106,538	11,509	116,218	15,202	174,611	18,964	208,606	17,957	210,407
15.	Sugar	Pikuls	11,690	149,269	16,417	213,416	22,439	269,568	18,444	239,772	9,731	121,151
16.	Tobacco (all kinds)	"	..	274,372	..	348,297	..	474,997	..	492,626	..	532,885

32. Except for the European estates, which to some extent deal direct with Singapore or Penang, the local weaving industry, and a number of Indian traders in piece goods, trade is entirely in Chinese hands and is conducted through the agency of Chinese firms in Singapore. The bulk of trade is via the Port of Tumpat, which has direct connection by rail with Southern and Western Kelantan, and by both river and rail with the capital, whence again there is connection by river and road with eastern and central Kelantan, but a proportion of the import and export trade of eastern Kelantan goes and comes via the smaller ports of Semerak and Bachok.

33. The law as regards Customs was consolidated by the passing of the Customs Enactment (No. 2/28) and rules thereunder (Notice No. 3/28) and subsections of the Customs Tariff were amended (Notice No. 1/28) to clarify doubtful points but without material change in the duties imposed.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS.

34. *Shipping and Ports.*—Freight and passenger charges between Kelantan and Singapore are high, considering the shortness of the run (circa 360 miles) but otherwise, unless interrupted by rough weather, sea communications are good and regular. The tonnage of steamers calling during the year increased from 139,324 tons in 1927 to 148,151 tons in 1928 but that of sailing vessels decreased to 8,771 tons. Unfortunately the State is entirely without harbours and in rough weather trade is much hampered, despite the operation of an efficient Tug and Lighterage service at Tumpat, by the lack of a sheltered anchorage and by the presence of a bar at each river's mouth.

The two main waterways (Kelantan and Golok rivers) moreover are shallow and difficult of navigation and although the bulk of the heavy goods traffic from the port of Tumpat to the Capital is by the Kelantan river and there are both launches, passenger, and cargo boats plying up the Kelantan river for another 60 miles, these have all to be of very shallow draft, while after the river gets into the hilly country south of Kuala Krai, the difficulties of navigation increase so rapidly that little except small native poling craft can be used. There are 5,226 launches and boats on the local register.

35. *Railways.*—The Federated Malay States Railways system ("East Coast Line") touches the coast at Tumpat, gives connection

(via Siam) to the Western side of the Malay Peninsula and Singapore, and runs South into Ulu Kelantan for 63 miles to Manik Urai. The northern rail head of the main railway system has already crossed the State boundary from Pahang and reached Gua Musang, but owing to the difficulties of construction and flood damage, the gap of 80 miles will not be closed before 1931.

36. *Roads.*—With 167 miles of road open for traffic, the North Eastern area of the State is now well served in this respect and road communication is through to the State of Trengganu on the East, but the Western and Southern areas of the State still remain unroaded.

37. *Posts, Telegraphs and Telephones.*—There are 13 Post Offices or Sub-Post Offices in the State and mails (letter post) are despatched and received daily by rail or sea to the Colony and the Federated Malay States while parcel mails are despatched and received bi-weekly by sea. There is also a bi-weekly mail service to Siam and Trengganu.

When rough weather entails a risk of over carriage the sea service is temporarily suspended and both letters and parcel mails despatched by rail.

The postal rates in force are the same as those of the Straits Settlements and at the larger post offices, the usual Money Order, Postal Order and C.O.D. systems are available. A Post Office Savings Bank is in process of inauguration.

There are four telegraph Offices in the State, Kota Bahru, Kuala Krai, Pasir Puteh and Tumpat and telegraphic communication with the outside world via Haadyai in Siam but this service is costly, (the Siamese charge being six cents per word) and messages are rather liable to delay and mutilation. The railway telegraph system within the State is also available. A direct line (via Pahang) is under construction and will, it is hoped, be available in 1930.

There is a telephone exchange in Kota Bharu with connections to Kuala Krai, Pasir Puteh and Tumpat and extensions of the system are in hand.

VII. JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

38. The Laws of Kelantan are enacted by His Highness the Sultan in Council with the advice of the British Adviser and are based on those of the Federated Malay States, but, "Malay" being

the official language, are in a simplified form. The legal Code is far from complete but where Kelantan law is silent the principles of English Common Law prevail. The work of codifying the law is now in hand and all existing laws and rules have been collected and indexed for reference. The State is pledged in due course to establish the Court of a Judge and a Court of Appeal.

The Courts as at present established are:—

The Court of Revision consisting of His Highness the Sultan in consultation with the British Adviser; the Court of the Judicial Commissioner with unlimited jurisdiction in Criminal, Probate and Civil matters as well as on the appellate side; (the Datoh Mufti sitting as Assessor in Mohammedan murder trials or when matters of Mohammedan law or religion are involved); the Courts of Magistrates of the 1st and 2nd Class and the Court of a Penggawa, which latter deals only with petty offences.

All Mohammedan religious matters are dealt with by the Court of the Chief Kathi or of an Assistant Kathi, with an appeal to the Datoh Mufti. The Judicial Commissioner is a Civil Service Officer with legal experience and is also Legal Adviser. The Assistant Adviser exercises the powers of Public Prosecutor when called upon to do so. The District Officers Ulu Kelantan and Pasir Puteh are magistrates of the first class but otherwise all subordinate Courts are presided over by Kelantanese Officers. Advocates and Solicitors are not admitted to practice in the Courts except by special permission in particular cases but there are a few "licensed pleaders" ("Penggua").

39. There are 24 Police Stations and Police posts in the State and the Police force, with the exception of the Commissioner is entirely Kelantanese. Drill and Musketry are excellent but the health of the force leaves much to be desired.

The number of offences reported to the Police decreased to 1,104 and these reports resulted in 1,131 arrests with 751 convictions. There were also 436 reports with 683 arrests and 571 convictions under the Small Offences Enactment. Of the more serious offences, Murder, Culpable Homicide, Cattle theft and Mischief showed a substantial decrease but robbery and gang-robbery increased and petty thieving is still rife.

4,676 firearms, of which 1,963 were muzzle loaders, were licensed.

40. There are three prisons in the State, that at Kota Bharu being both prison and convict establishment, while those at Kuala Krai and Pasir Puteh are used only for short sentence prisoners convicted locally.

As against 275 at the end of 1926, the total number of prisoners was 234 at the beginning, and 228 at the close of 1928 and of these only 14 were serving sentences of seven years or over. The majority are Kelantanese though there is a sprinkling of Chinese, Indians, Siamese and Javanese.

Discipline was good and health satisfactory, there being no serious outbreak of disease and only four deaths. For short sentence prisoners, however, nearly all "hard labour" is extra-mural and the Kelantanese prisoner has a curious mentality, in that he will often try to escape when within a few days of release or serving a very short sentence. Including five, who escaped, most ingeniously, from the new Jail Hospital, there were 20 escapes with 10 recaptures.

Kota Bharu Jail is inspected bi-monthly by Members of the Board of Visiting Justices.

VIII. PUBLIC WORKS.

41. The European personnel of the Public Works Department was strengthened and the State Engineer has now three European Assistant Engineers on his staff. The sum allotted to public works, including special and supplementary votes was \$1,034,022 or nearly 2/5ths of the total revenue of the State but in view of the unfavourable financial situation which developed in the middle of the year, special service items to the extent of just over a quarter million dollars were postponed and the actual expenditure was \$770,530, of which personal emoluments represented 4.5%. Among the more important special service items completed were, a new Land Office and a new Post Office, 40 units of Police Barracks, three surgical and two medical wards with dressers' quarters and out buildings for the new hospital and a much needed Customs Office and Godown at Kota Bharu. All these were permanent buildings constructed of Winget block and roofed with permanent roofing material.

42. One hundred and sixty seven miles of road, of which 52 miles were metalled, 23½ gravelled and 91½ earth road, as against 155 in 1927, were upkept at a cost of \$109,958 (\$632 per mile) and, except for a few days at the height of the December floods, were kept open for traffic throughout the year. Fourteen and a quarter

miles of road were metalled and 33,397 square yards asphalted. The length of new road constructed was eleven miles.

The process of replacing temporary by permanent bridges was begun and two such bridges were completed, two more being in hand at the close of the year.

43. The Kota Bharu Electric supply plant was completed and ran satisfactorily throughout the year. The running cost—exclusive of depreciation, was \$17,583, and the revenue collected \$23,278.

IX. PUBLIC HEALTH.

44. The State provides a General, a European and an isolation Hospital in Kota Bharu, a smaller hospital in Kuala Krai, and dispensaries at Pasir Puteh and Tumpat, as well as an isolation Hospital at the latter place. A special ward in the new General Hospital has been provided for sick prisoners and the old hospital wards in the gaol precincts are now used for Mental cases. There is also a small leper asylum, but the worst of the Mental cases are, by the courtesy of the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements sent for treatment outside the State and it is hoped to make similar arrangements as regards lepers. The larger estates provide hospital accommodation and medical attendance for their employees, as does also the Railway Department at various points along the line.

The State Surgeon, Health Officer and two European Nursing Sisters are stationed at Kota Bharu while a private medical practitioner (by arrangement) supervises the hospital at Kuala Krai. The State Hospital is in course of being rebuilt on the pavilion system and will when completed have accommodation for 250 third class patients, as well as two second class wards, with operating theatre, administration block, and attendants quarters. Until funds are available to complete the whole scheme (five new wards, the store, and 3 dressers quarters were completed and occupied during the year) the work of the Department is somewhat hampered, as some of the old hospital buildings, which are nearly a quarter of a mile from the new hospital, have still to be kept in use.

The daily charge for a third class patient is 50 cents but free treatment is given in all indigent cases. The expenditure, exclusive of buildings and their upkeep, increased from \$152,537 in 1927 to \$190,030 in 1928.

45. The great flood of 1926—1927 not only destroyed or put out of action all estate and Railway Hospitals but adversely affected public health in a marked degree. Towards the close of 1927 matters began to improve and in 1928 health conditions were normal. Except for two cases of small pox the State was, throughout the year, free from all serious infectious disease, though there were a few cases of Chicken Pox, Measles and Mumps.

As elsewhere in Malaya, Malaria is our most serious problem; 40 per cent of the cases admitted to the Government Hospitals, 31 per cent of those admitted to estate Hospitals, 57 per cent of those admitted to Railway Hospitals and more than half the cases admitted to the European Hospital, being Malarial patients.

In areas in which funds and skilled supervision have been available, the incidence of this disease has been greatly reduced, notably in the town of Kuala Krai and on estates, but oiling, without adequate drainage seems ineffective and among the general urban and rural population Malaria is still a scourge. Next to Malaria, Hookworm (Ankylostomiasis) is probably the most prevalent disease but the only statistics available are those given below of patients who came to Government or Estate Hospitals for treatment.

		GOVT. HOSPITALS.		ESTATE HOSPITALS.		TOTAL.	
		<i>Treated.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Treated.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Treated.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
Malaria	.. ..	2,659	72	2,994	69	5,653	141
Dysentery	.. ..	151	21	1,268	42	1,419	63
Lung Disease	.. ..	320	41	1,633	64	1,962	105
Ulcers	.. ..	442	1	1,609	..	2,051	1
Ankylostomiasis	.. ..	353	25	816	12	1,169	37
Venerial Disease	.. ..	275	..	731	..	1,006	..

The total admissions to Government Hospitals were 6,500 and to Estate Hospitals 9,681, while there were 75,275 attendances of out patients at dispensaries, over 80% of the latter being Malays.

46. The Kelantanese are, on the whole very willing to accept medical treatment, though they shun detention in Hospitals, and the large increase in the numbers treated at Hospitals and dispensaries is probably due, rather to improved communications and a better acquaintance with European medicine than to a deterioration in the general health of the peasant population. 11,472 persons were vaccinated (including all pilgrims to Mecca, who were also inoculated against Cholera) and 7,509 injections given for Yaws.

The more accessible vernacular schools were visited periodically and treatment given to the children on the spot but although a few selected teachers and headmen are learning to treat simple ailments, comparatively little can be done in the rural areas until communications are improved and the health and medical staff increased.

47. Registration of Births and Deaths was introduced during 1926 but the returns are obviously incomplete and unreliable especially for the urban areas, where the population is a mixed one. On Estates, which return a total population of 7,089 of all nationalities, there were 306 deaths and 125 births giving rates of 43.2 per mille and 17.6 per mille respectively.

The only immigration and emigration figures available are those for Chinese arriving or leaving by sea: of these 1,870 were immigrants and 1,424 emigrants.

48. The nucleus of a Veterinary Department was created by the appointment in March of a qualified Veterinary Inspector and the existence of sporadic anthrax among the Kelantan cattle immediately became apparent. Sixteen certain and 8 suspected cases of the disease occurred and it seems certain that anthrax has been sporadic but unidentified in the State for years and that a certain amount of immunity to this disease has been achieved both by man and beast. The Government Veterinary Surgeon, Singapore, visited and advised on the matter and lymph for prophylactic treatment is on order. The disease was only serious in that it paralysed the export trade and discouraged breeding.

Two outbreaks of fowl cholera adversely affected the export trade in poultry but the State was otherwise practically free from veterinary disease.

49. The Municipal and Health Enactment (No. 12/1928) introduced in December, consolidated and amended the existing law and will give fuller powers of control in Urban areas and in unhealthy areas which lie outside Municipal Limits.

X. EDUCATION.

50. Educational facilities, technical or otherwise, are still scanty in Kelantan but the State maintains 8 selected Kelantanese pupils at educational institutions outside the State and has provided for a scholarship at Raffles College, Singapore, as well as sending one youth to read for the bar in England.

Additionally four Kelantanese are being trained at State expense as Vernacular School teachers, another as an agricultural officer and two as technical subordinates for the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The Majlis Ugama Islam also maintains one student at the Kuala Kangsar Malay College (Perak) and another at Cairo.

51. In Kelantan the Majlis Ugama Islam provides English education for 70 boys and Vernacular education for 250 while the State provides 68 Vernacular Schools which have an average enrolment of 3,757 pupils. The standard of teaching is however very low and two trained Vernacular School teachers have been engaged for 1929 to give instruction to the school and pupil teachers in educational methods.

52. There are also three Chinese Schools teaching Chinese and a little English and 14 estate schools teaching Tamil. Except for the vacancies in Government service however, for which there are already an overwhelming number of candidates, there are few openings locally for candidates whose only qualification is a moderate knowledge of English and it has been decided to concentrate for the present on improving the standard of Vernacular education, with the addition of history, geography and mathematics, rather than initiate a second rate standard of English education.

XI. LAND AND SURVEYS.

53. Land tenure is on the basis of the Torrens Registration system and is similar to that of the Federated Malay States, grants in perpetuity, and leases for a term not exceeding 100 years, being issued for the larger areas of Agricultural and for Town lands, while Asiatic proprietors hold Agricultural lands by Entry in a Mukim Register. Alienated land may be re-entered on behalf of the Ruler of the State if not cultivated in accordance with the terms of the title or sold by public auction if the rent thereon remains unpaid. In the case of country lands of less than 10 acres in area the rate of annual rent imposed varies from 40 cents to 2.50 per acre and is based on the purpose for which the land is alienated and the amenities thereof while premium on alienation, including the cost of Survey and Boundary marks, ranges from \$2 to \$25 per acre. Town lands are alienated by auction and carry a minimum rent of \$5 per acre, while on Country Lands exceeding 10 acres in area, rent is at \$1 per acre for six years and thereafter \$3, and premium varies from \$10 to \$50 per acre. Specially reduced terms are however granted if land is

taken up for the cultivation of new economic products or for grazing. A committee is now sitting to consider the draft of a more elaborate Land Code and amending Enactments and Notifications were passed during the year to consolidate the existing law and prescribe rates for rent, premium and survey fees, but no basic alteration of the land tenure system has been made or is proposed.

54. Since the passing of the Land Enactment in 1926 the chief task of the Land Offices has been to get existing occupation settled and surveyed and the proprietors entered in the Settlement and Mukim Registers and it is one which, owing to the enormous number of holdings to be dealt with, will take years to complete. Cases of disputed ownership are now becoming less frequent but the investigation of claims to succeed to deceased proprietors and the registration of such succession will, with a large population of small peasant proprietors always remain a heavy burden on the time of the Land Officers.

55. The year's alienation, of which 7,021 acres were for rubber, amounted to 8,103 acres bringing the total alienated area up to 477,000 acres, or just over 13 per cent of the area of the State.

In the Northern district of the State there is little land left for alienation but in the South and Southwest there are large tracts available which have as yet scarcely been explored. With the falling price of rubber however, the demand for new land fell sharply and "Land Sales" which realised \$215,721 in 1926 and \$117,705 in 1927 dropped to \$95,917 as against an estimate of \$162,000. Exclusive of Land Sales, Land revenue for the last five years shows a steady expansion as under

1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
358,227	385,549	413,659	450,845	479,616

56. Pari Passu with the drop in the demand for new land there was a large falling off in the number of transfers, charges, sub-leases and other transactions registered and in the Stamp duty payable thereon; a sure indication of the reduced liquid resources of the public.

57. With a rather more definite wet and dry season than the West of the Peninsula, and, in Southern Kelantan, large tracts of rich, though usually somewhat broken land, at all altitudes up to 6,000 feet available for settlement and now for the first time becoming accessible,

the State appears to offer attractions to the tropical agriculturist. To protect the interests of the Kelantanese peasant proprietor, it is enacted that all transfers from Kelantanese to Non-Kelantanese and all applications for new land by Non-Kelantanese require the approval of His Highness the Sultan in Council but where the interests of Kelantanese are not jeopardised, such approval is readily given.

58. There are District Land Offices at Kuala Krai, Pasir Puteh, Pasir Mas and Bacho and a combined Land and Registration office at Kota Bharu, where all grants, leases and mining titles are registered.

59. The European Survey staff consisted of the Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent (Office) and a Surveyor in the field; the Asiatic staff of an average of 8 Surveyors and Junior Surveyors in the field, with 4 Senior and 20 Junior subordinates in Office. The Expenditure was \$88,324 of which administration represented 18% Office work 30% and field work 52%. Surely fees collected and credited by the various Land Offices, totalled to \$44,761.

60. The principal items of survey completed included 407 Town lots, 12 agricultural lots with an area of 2,936 acres and 1,202 small holdings. Plane-table topo-surveys for the towns of Tumpat and Kuala Krai were also made and 65 miles of traverse run, besides the survey of road, railway and other reserves.

61. The department is always hampered, despite the initiation of local instructional classes, by a shortage of efficient technical subordinates and the arrears of both office and field work are heavy, unsatisfied requisitions including 309 Town lots, 30,237 acres of small holdings and 71,200 acres of agricultural land besides subdivisions and mining blocks.

The non-completion of these surveys does not however imply that applicants for land are kept waiting indefinitely, most of these blocks being already demarcated and occupied under provisional titles.

62. A geological survey map of the State on a scale of six miles to an inch is available, but it has not yet been possible to incorporate therein the results of the further survey made in 1928. The result of this further survey has been on the whole negative and disappointing; but both tin-ore and gold have been worked with success on a small scale by Asiatic methods in Kelantan, and although large scale mining has hitherto been a failure, there is a reasonable possibility that with improved facilities for transport and prospecting, tin-ore deposits in sufficient quantity to justify large scale workings,

may be found in the main granite range which separates the State from Perak and Pahang, or in that which forms its boundary with Trengganu. Prospecting for tin is being done on a considerable scale and a rich and extensive deposit of iron-ore (Hematite) has been found at Temangan, some 40 miles up the Kelantan River, which lying as it does between the Railway and the river with easy access to both, is very favourably situated for exploitation.

XII. LABOUR.

63. The native Kelantanese is a good worker and if properly handled is quick to learn. Boat building is an ancestral trade at which he is very expert and as carpenter, mason or mechanic he is little, if at all, inferior to the Chinese. The Government employs Kelantanese exclusively for all public works.

64. The Federated Malay States Railways (East Coast line) employ both Kelantanese, Chinese, Tamils, Telegu and Northern Indians while the estates employ chiefly Tamils and Telegus but have recently evinced a tendency to substitute Chinese labour. Except for Indian Immigrant Labour no detailed figures are available.

65. The Kelantan Indian Immigration Enactment (2/27) was amended by Enactment 10/28 which definitely vests in the Controller of Labour, Malaya, certain powers in respect of Indian Immigrant Labour in Kelantan, and provides for the recovery of the Hospital fees of estate labourers admitted to Government Hospitals, for the priority of labourers wages over other claims, and for Domestic Servants.

Rules under the principal Enactment were also made prescribing the requirements of the Government in respect of Estate Hospitals, diets and medical attendance.

The Labour (Non-Indian) Enactment No. 13/28 was also enacted to cover all other classes of labour in Kelantan.

66. Practically all the 25 estates which employ Indian immigrant Labour in Kelantan, despite their heavy losses in the 1926—1927 flood, and the reduction of their income and depletion of their reserves due to the fall in the price of rubber, made a great effort to improve labour conditions by the provision of adequate buildings and improved water supplies and by the adoption of more scientific anti-malarial measures and the reduction of the death rate from 78.3 per mille in 1927 to 49.4 per mille in 1928 proves the success of their endeavours.

It would seem however that the Indian Immigrant labour is less hardy than those of other nationalities among whom the death rate is only 27.2 per mille.

67. Owing chiefly to the substitution of Chinese labour the total number of Indian Immigrant labourers employed on estates declined gradually from 6,129 in December 1927 to 5,280 in December 1928, 1,182 of these being females.

Sixteen estates now have their own hospitals and all provide free medical attendance. Fourteen estates also provide schools for the labourers children.

68. The daily wage of Indian Immigrant labourers on estates varies from 40 to 55 cents for men and 35 cents to 50 cents for women but in most cases a bonus for regular out-turn or a commission on the "latex" brought in is also paid. As from July 1929 a minimum wage of 58 cents for men and 46 cents for women will come into force for Indian Immigrant labour in the inland Districts of Kelantan.

The Government rate of pay for all classes of unskilled labour varies from 50 to 58 cents per day according to district. Skilled labour of all sorts naturally commands much higher rates, a skilled carpenter or mason, for example, earning from \$1.60 to \$2.50 per day.

69. Chinese, for the most part, work on contract, and not on daily wages.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS.

70. His Highness the Sultan takes the deepest personal interest in all matters affecting the welfare of his State and of his people and, except during the period of court mourning which followed the death in November of Her Highness the Sultanah—when his place was taken by His Highness the Raja Muda—presided at all meetings of the State Council.

71. His Highness has always been active in restricting and repressing anything in the nature of public gaming and has, although the sport was not cruel, in that bull fought bull (and not man) and could refuse to fight or break off the combat at any moment, finally decided to prohibit all bull fighting in Kelantan, because of the reckless gambling of some of his subjects on the result of the fights. Thus disappears the oldest established and most popular sport in Kelantan, and one which was not without its good points in that it helped to improve the breed of cattle.

72. The European Administrative and Judicial Staff consists of the Adviser and five other seconded Officers of the Malayan Civil Service, who between them fill thirteen Administrative and Judicial posts.

73. The undersigned acted as British Adviser throughout the year.

THE RESIDENCY,

KELANTAN, 12TH MARCH, 1929.

R. J. B. CLAYTON, M.C.S.

*British Adviser to the Government
of Kelantan.*

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE

LIABILITIES.	Amount.	Total.
DEPOSITS:—	\$	\$
Ulu Kelantan District Treasury	87,779	
Pasir Puteh District Treasury	2,915	
Courts, Kota Bharu	30,495	
Police Fines and Rewards Fund	378	
Prison Fines and Rewards Fund	266	
Clerks' Fines and Rewards Fund	203	
Customs' Fines and Rewards Fund	59	
Police Sundry Deposit	791	
Prisons Sundry Deposit	95	
Customs Sundry Deposit	528	
Medical Sundry Deposit	522	
Land Office, Kota Bharu, Sundry Deposit	47,863	
Land Office, Kota Bharu, Survey Deposit	12,392	
Land Office, Pasir Mas, Sundry Deposit	47,673	
Land Office, Pasir Mas, Survey Deposit	556	
Clerks' Security Deposit	2,879	
Suspense Account Deposit	15,530	
Pawn Broking Farm Deposit	5,700	
Toddy Farm Deposit	1,052	
Office Mentri Deposit	1,323	
Distressed Kelantanese in Mecca	1,228	
New Mosque	1,057	
Money Order	5,235	
Conservancy Board (Contract Deposit)	500	
		267,019
LOANS:—		
Loan owing to the Straits Settlements bearing interest @ 5%	200,000	
Loan owing to the Straits Settlements free of interest for five years, (1926—1931)	3,880,684	
		4,080,684
TOTAL		4,347,703

A.

STATE OF KELANTAN AS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

ASSETS.	Amount.	Total.
BALANCES:—	\$	\$
Cash—District Treasury, Ulu Kelantan	35,417	
Do. Pasir Puteh	5,005	40,422
Bank—Mercantile Bank Current Account	446,950	
Do. Fixed Deposit	15,000	
Chartered Bank Current Account	1,896	463,846
ADVANCES RECOVERABLE:—		
Public Works Department Store Account ..	12,000	
Do. Do. Factory Account ..	11,700	
Do. Do. on account of R. P. Charlie ..	5,502	
Clubs	1,055	
Advance to Government Officers	59,199	
Majlis Ugama	80,000	
Postal Order Account	400	
Dato' Kaya Pathi (Towkay Yeap Hong Ghee) ..	50,000	
Towkay Teh Boon Chuan Kuala Krai	4,000	223,856
INVESTMENTS AT COST:—		
8,000 Duff Development Company's Shares @ \$5.00 each	40,000	
£25,000 of British War Loan Bearer Bonds (1929—1947)	219,239	259,239
		987,363
BALANCE TO THE DEBIT OF THE STATE	..	3,360,340
TOTAL		4,347,703

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REPORT FOR 1928.

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SIERRA LEONE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1928.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
PREFATORY NOTE—	
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY	2
CURRENCY, ETC.	5
I. GENERAL	5
II. FINANCE	6
III. PRODUCTION... ..	7
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	8
V. COMMUNICATIONS	11
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS	16
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	18
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH	18
IX. EDUCATION	21
X. LANDS AND SURVEY	24
XI. LABOUR	26
XII. MISCELLANEOUS	26
APPENDIX. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	30
MAP OF SIERRA LEONE.	

PREFATORY NOTE.

History and Geography.

1. Sierra Leone, which has been known to historians for many centuries, first became a British Colony in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The Colony was established in order to make suitable provision for a large number of slaves who had found their way to England after the American War of 1782, and also for such slaves as might be recaptured by British ships operating against the slavers. A strip of land was acquired on the north of the Sierra Leone Peninsula, and on this site the first colonists were landed in May, 1787. The original grant was made by the local chief, King Tom, and this grant was subsequently ratified by the Paramount Chief Nembanna.

In 1791 a charter was granted to the Sierra Leone Company with exclusive right to lands purchased from the native chiefs, and in 1792 the original colonists were joined by a large party of Africans from Nova Scotia, who were unable to stand the rigours of that climate; subsequently the number of settlers was further increased by numerous shiploads of Africans rescued from slave-ships by His Majesty's Navy.

For the first 20 years of its existence the Colony suffered many hardships and privations through famine and disease, and was attacked three times from the land by the Temnes and once from the sea by a French squadron.

In 1807 King Farina and King Tom ceded to the Sierra Leone Company, by treaty, the whole of the Sierra Leone Peninsula and its dependencies, and in the following year the possessions of the Sierra Leone Company were transferred to the Crown and the first Governor was appointed.

It was not many years before the Colony began to take an interest in the affairs of the hinterland, and treaties were made with the surrounding chiefs by which certain lands—for example, Bunce Island, Port Loko, and Kaffu Bullom—were ceded to the Crown, but these treaties were not in all cases ratified by the Crown. Thereafter the Government of the Colony began to exercise influence in the Protectorate to an increasing extent by the settlement of tribal wars.

From 1866 to 1874 Sierra Leone was officially the senior West African Colony and the headquarters of the "West African Settlements." The Governor-in-Chief resided at Freetown and administered not only the Colony of Sierra Leone but also those of the Gold Coast, Lagos, and the Gambia.

In 1886 the Colony was placed in telegraphic communication with England. In 1895 the northern boundary between the British and French spheres of influence and interests was ratified by agreement, the eastern boundary being subsequently defined in 1911 by agreement between the British and French Governments and the British and Liberian Governments.

In 1896 the hinterland of Sierra Leone was declared a Protectorate and divided into administrative districts, and Ordinances were passed providing for its administration.

The year 1898 was marked by an insurrection in the Protectorate; this broke out when a Temne chief (Bai Bureh) refused to pay the house tax, which was then being imposed for the first time. In April of that year the insurrection became more general and many Mende chiefdoms were involved. The resulting military operations were brought to a successful conclusion early in the following year, and since that date the Protectorate has remained peaceful.

2. The territory comprising the Colony and Protectorate of Sierra Leone is about the size of Ireland (27,250 square miles) and lies between the 7th and 10th parallels of North latitude and $10^{\circ} 40'$, and $13^{\circ} 21'$, of West longitude. It extends for a maximum distance of rather over 200 miles from north to south and of about 180 miles from west to east.

The Colony proper, as at present constituted, comprises the Sierra Leone Peninsula, Sherbro Island, Turner's Peninsula, and a number of small islands of which York Island, adjacent to Sherbro, is the most important as it is a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Sierra Leone Peninsula was doubtless well known to the earliest navigators, as it is one of the few places on the coast of West Africa where mountainous land is found close to the sea. Its conical peaks, of which the highest is Picket Hill (2,912 ft.), are visible for great distances at certain seasons of the year.

These mountains are of very old volcanic formation, consisting chiefly of norite. The Peninsula is well wooded in places, but was probably always thinly populated on account of its mountainous character and the rocky and somewhat poor nature of its soil. Possibly these two characteristics account for the readiness of the ruling chiefs and their people to concede the land to the British Government on various occasions between the years 1788 and 1861. The total area of the Peninsula is about 260 square miles, and its population, including Freetown, numbers 85,163 (1921 Census).

Freetown, the capital of the Colony, is situated on the north-east corner of the Peninsula on a fine natural harbour formed by the mouth of the Rokelle or Sierra Leone River. The deep channel, which is over a mile in width, affords good anchorage close to the shore for the largest ships.

The town itself is on the whole well laid out with straight and often broad streets; this is due to the surveyors who accompanied even the earliest expedition for the purpose of establishing a settlement, and who planned the nucleus of a well-designed town. During the past fifteen years a number of good public and private buildings have been erected, and during the past ten years the streets have greatly improved. At the present time about 600 motor vehicles ply in and around Freetown. The town enjoys a splendid pipe-borne water supply, the catchment area being situated in the mountains, where there are large reservations of land. This and other equally important sanitary improvements have done much towards dispelling the evil reputation from which the city has long suffered. The population of Freetown according to the 1921 Census was approximately 45,000.

Sherbro Island, which is almost equal in area to the Peninsula, is situated at the estuaries of several large rivers and owes its importance as a trading centre to this fact. The island is flat and sandy generally and is intersected by creeks. The chief town is Bonthe, a port of call for sea-going steamers.

The Protectorate is well watered by a network of rivers and streams. There are eight or nine considerable rivers with wide estuaries, but owing to the shape of the ground, which gradually rises from the coast to a range of hills in the north-east, forming part of the Futa Jallon Range (the watershed of an important system of rivers, including the Niger and the Gambia), few of the rivers of Sierra Leone are navigable for more than a short portion of their length.

The nature of the country varies considerably. A line drawn east from Freetown indicates approximately the latitude at which

the dense bush country (originally tropical forest) of the south gives place to the more thinly wooded country of the north. In the northern belt the rainfall is somewhat less than in the south, and the nights are undoubtedly cooler.

The Protectorate supports an average of 57.48 persons to the square mile. The population is somewhat denser in the Central Province than in the Northern Province.

The population of the Protectorate, according to the 1921 Census, was 1,456,148. The following tribes inhabit the three Provinces :—

Northern Province ... Susus, Yalunkas, Korankos, Linbas, Lokkos, and Temnes, with some Mandingoes, Fulahs, and Kissis.

Central Province ... Konnos, Kissis, and Mendes, with some Bandis and Golas.

Southern Province ... Mendes, Krims, Veis, Golas, Sherbros, and some Temnes.

The Mendes and Temnes are the most numerous of the Protectorate tribes, and their languages are the principal ones spoken.

Currency, etc.

3. Imperial currency, monetary units, and weights and measures are in use in the Colony and Protectorate. In addition to Imperial currency, West African silver coins and West African alloy coins are current and also West African notes of the values £1 and 10s.

A new issue of 20s. and 10s. currency notes was placed in circulation as from 1st July. The new notes differ only slightly in design from the old issue and have the same legal tender value as the old notes, which still remain in circulation.

A sum of £23,840 was received from the West African Currency Board as this Colony's share of the distribution of income of investments during the year under review.

I.—GENERAL.

The Colony continued to enjoy a fair measure of prosperity during the year, which was marked by an increase in revenue of £52,038 over the previous year. The total amount of imports was £2,054,507 and the total of exports £1,829,093. Imports increased by £57,517 and exports by £61,834 as compared with 1927.

2. The general health of the Colony was satisfactory and no epidemics were prevalent. A considerable amount of infant welfare work is being undertaken in order to reduce infantile mortality, which in Freetown is 364 per 1,000 births.

3. The new Government offices were completed in 1928, and compare favourably with any other building in West Africa.

4. A feature of 1928 was the discovery of gold in the Protectorate, following the earlier discovery of platinum, by Major N. R. Junner, M.C., Director of Geological Survey. In consequence of this dis-

covery a number of European prospectors, financed by companies of good standing, visited Sierra Leone ; and there is reason to hope for mining developments which will add materially to the prosperity of the Colony. See also the remarks under “ Mines ” in Section III.

5. As regards the Protectorate, an even more important event was the abolition of the last trace of slavery. This was effected by an Ordinance which was passed in September, 1927, and came into force on the 1st January, 1928. An Ordinance had been passed in 1926 to abolish by degrees a class of persons commonly called “ domestic slaves ” who were in fact well-treated by their masters. In 1927, however, the Full Court delivered a judgment which held that the status of slavery was recognised by law, to the extent of allowing a master to use force. It was decided therefore to enact a law clearly abolishing the status of slavery forthwith, and this was done by the new Ordinance of 1927. In practice most of the so-called “ domestic slaves ” have elected to stay with their masters, and the change has caused no social or economic unrest.

II.—FINANCE.

The financial year is from 1st January to 31st December. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				£	£
1924	...	...	...	868,319	777,790
1925	...	...	...	945,581	843,320
1926	...	...	...	855,440	957,155
1927	...	...	...	719,637*	754,610*
1928	...	...	...	826,319†	815,374

* The figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1924, 1925, and 1926 include gross totals of Railway revenue and expenditure. From the year 1927 only the net result of the working of the Railway is included in the general accounts.

† Inclusive of a re-imbursement of £54,644, being first instalment of a domestic loan in respect of works paid for out of “ Surplus Balances.” Deducting this sum from nominal revenue, the actual revenue would be £771,675.

2. The following amendments were made to the Customs Tariff and gazetted on 24th November and 1st December by Orders in Council Nos. 22 and 23 respectively, namely :—

(a) Decrease in the duty on oil fuel from 9d. to 4d. per imperial gallon.

(b) Inclusion in the table of exemptions from duty of wheaten flour and milk, fresh or preserved.

3. The year's working may be summarised as follows :—

							£
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 1st January, 1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	283,556
Revenue	...	...	...	...	...	...	£826,319
Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	...	£815,374
							10,945
Excess of Assets over Liabilities on 31st December, 1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	294,501

4. Of the total revenue in 1928, the sum of £558,465 was derived from Customs duties, £94,941 from indirect taxation, and £118,269 from other sources of revenue.

5. The funded debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, was £1,729,848, against which the accumulations to the Sinking Funds, for its amortisation, amounted at that date to £425,178.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The several Divisions of the Lands and Forests Department have continued the development of the schemes inaugurated in previous years.

The Division of Agriculture has carried on the various lines of research started at the Experimental Farm at N'jala. Oil-palm work continues to form an important part of these investigations and the records of the yields of individual palms from plantations which have now been yielding for some three or four years show that we possess some very high quality palms which could be used as parent stock in future breeding experiments.

An Experimental Fruit Farm has been started at Newton, the chief function of which will be the growing of citrus fruits (grape fruit and lemons) and bananas. An area has been demarcated and partially cleared, and some 15 acres of bananas have been planted.

In the Southern Province the planting of cocoa (28,000 seedlings) and coconuts (19,000 seedlings) has continued, and there is reason to hope that in the future a considerable amount of coffee may be grown in this Province. In the Central Province there is a marked increase in the use of swamps for rice-growing. Cocoa is also making considerable progress, and over 25,000 seedlings were planted out during the year. Eighty-four tons of cocoa, to the value of £3,176, were exported in 1928, as against 41 tons, value £1,340, in 1926, and 77 tons, value £2,836, in 1927.

In the Northern Province a new industry has been started by this Department, namely, the production of raffia fibre. Already some 25 tons of this fibre have been produced.

Efforts are also being made to introduce the use of ploughs in this Province.

Generally, the whole of 1928 may be said to be one of steady progress; there is a marked increase in interest on the part of native farmers with regard to the production of export crops, and the demands for seeds and seedlings are continually increasing.

The Division of Forests has continued its reservation work, and some 33 square miles of the proposed Gory Hills Reserve have been demarcated.

The Division of Research has carried on its programme. The chemical section devoted most of its time to the important problem of lateritic soils, and has collected and examined soils from other West African Colonies for comparison with those of Sierra Leone. In addition to his work in connection with diseases of oil palms,

citrus, cocoa, cassava, and groundnuts, the Mycologist has carried out valuable investigations into the yields of fruit from the different varieties of oil palms at N'jala. The Entomologist has been chiefly concerned with devising control measures for locusts, termites, and kola pests, and some of the treatments tried show great promise of success.

The Division of Produce and Plant Inspection has continued the work of inspecting the various products exported, with the result that the quality of the produce exported continues to improve.

MINES.

At the beginning of 1928 the Geological Department received numerous enquiries from mining companies and applications for prospecting rights, exclusive prospecting licences, and mining rights. As a result it was found necessary to establish a Mines Office as a branch of the Department.

Active development was carried out on the concession granted to a public company over the Marampa haematite deposits. A survey party was engaged in an investigation of a route for a proposed railway from the deposits to the Sierra Leone River.

After the General Minerals Rules 1928 were issued, blocks of ground in the platinum layout were offered for tender and tenders covering about 20 square miles were received. In the gold area layout, 15 exclusive prospecting licence applications were made, covering an area of 29.5 square miles. Thirty-one prospecting rights were issued during the year.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

IMPORTS.

The total value of imports into the Colony in 1928 was £2,054,507, as compared with £2,112,024 in 1927.

The following tables show the value of imports for the years 1913, 1927, and 1928 :—

					1913 £	1927 £	1928 £
Commercial imports	...	...	...	...	1,291,982	1,588,615	1,625,886
Government imports	...	...	...	...	146,053	292,209	158,903
Specie	...	...	...	...	312,268	231,200	269,718
Totals	...	...	...	...	£1,750,303	2,112,024	2,054,507
					1913 £	1927 £	1928 £
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	...	...	...	...	354,488	445,949	433,277
Raw materials, and articles mainly unmanufactured.	...	...	...	...	103,680	255,793	140,231
Articles mainly manufactured	...	...	...	...	979,449	1,177,052	1,207,232
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	418	1,910	3,756
Specie	...	...	...	...	312,268	231,320	270,011
Totals	...	...	...	...	£1,750,303	2,112,024	2,054,507

The revenue derived from imports of spirits was :—

				£
1913	...	...	...	173,565
1924	...	...	...	36,786
1927	...	...	...	45,141
1928	...	...	...	44,967

The commercial imports of coal during the year amounted to 23,884 tons, as compared with 20,082 tons in 1927.

Imports of coal for Government consumption amounted to 5,049 tons.

The following table shows the imports for home consumption of cotton piece-goods during recent years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Quantity, Sq. Yards.</i>	<i>Value C.I.F. £</i>	<i>Duty obtained. £</i>	<i>Rate of duty per cent.</i>
1924	... 7,239,117	308,372	70,050	*25
1925	... 10,196,326	430,987	80,401	20
1926	... 6,142,212	247,604	45,771	20
1927	... 9,376,122	317,934	58,265	20
1928	... 8,496,607	309,701	57,416	20

* Until 27th November, 1924, when it was reduced to 20 per cent.

Other Cotton goods :—

Other Cotton goods.			<i>Value.</i> <i>C.I.F.</i> £	<i>Duty.</i> <i>obtained.</i> £	<i>Rate of</i> <i>duty per cent.</i>
<i>Year.</i>					
1924	...	...	95,607	21,290	*25
1925	...	...	114,350	21,675	20
1926	...	...	95,519	17,155	20
1927	...	...	127,114	22,851	20
1928	...	...	138,583	25,167	20

* Duty reduced to 20 per cent. on 27th November, 1924.

EXPORTS.

The total value of exports from the Colony amounted to £1,829,093, as against £1,767,259 in 1927 and £1,731,252 in 1913. Exports are valued as they lie on board the exporting ship; such value includes export duty, cost of packages, and all charges incidental to shipment.

The following is a comparative table :—

		1913 £	1927 £	1928 £
Produce and manufactures of the Colony	...	1,376,603	1,527,077	1,609,614
Coal	... ..	—	36,831	40,849
Other British and foreign manufactures	...	113,685	153,151	121,810
Specie	... ..	240,964	50,200	56,820
Totals	... ..	£1,731,252	£1,767,259	£1,829,093

The following is a comparative statement of the principal exports during the last three years :—

	1926	1927	1928
Benniseed (tons)	19	141	116
Cocoa, raw (tons)	41	77	84
Ginger (cwt.)	55,265	27,354	20,431
Gum copal (tons)	—	—	42
Hides (cwt.)	337	141	449
Kola nuts (tons)	3,015	4,461	3,299
Palm Kernels (tons)	65,000	65,436	67,105
Palm Oil (tons)	2,865	3,609	2,525
Pepper (tons)	20	32	107
Piassava (tons)	2,083	2,418	3,189
Rice (bushels)	2,051	10,525	9,949

The following table exhibits the trend of commerce with the Colony :—

Year.	Total imports less Specie.	Re-exports less Specie.	Net imports.	Exports of the produce and manufactures of the Colony.	Excess of net imports over domestic exports.	Excess of domestic exports over net imports.
1924 ...	1,635,957	160,382	1,475,575	1,510,353	—	34,778
1925 ...	1,941,314	160,256	1,781,058	1,627,916	153,142	—
1926 ...	1,626,041	151,121	1,474,920	1,562,525	—	87,605
1927 ...	1,880,824	189,982	1,690,842	1,527,077	163,765	—
1928 ...	1,784,789	162,659	1,622,130	1,609,614	12,516	—

Kola Nuts.—Shipments amounted to 7,390,560 lb. or 3,299 tons, valued at £281,997, as compared with 9,993,030 lb. or 4,461 tons, valued at £268,915, in 1927.

Nigeria absorbed 51 per cent., Gambia 25.9 per cent., and French Senegal 21.3 per cent.

The following table shows the exports of kolas to the three principal kola-consuming countries during the last five years :—

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
Nigeria (lb.)	1,767,200	2,172,633	2,443,551	4,430,682	3,768,689
Gambia (lb.)	1,785,875	1,371,418	2,058,588	2,602,861	1,917,718
Senegal (lb.)	1,893,604	1,764,270	2,071,130	2,758,271	1,580,152

Palm Kernels.—The quantity of palm kernels exported during the year amounted to 67,105 tons, as compared with 65,436 in 1927—an increase of 1,669 tons. The value, including duty, amounted to £1,150,649 as against £1,077,450 in the preceding year, showing an increase of £73,199.

There was a slight rise in price in the European market, which averaged £20 13s. 0d. per ton as compared with £19 17s. 0d. per ton in 1927. The United Kingdom purchased only 25,345 tons or 37.77 per cent. of the total quantity shipped, as against 27,664 tons or 42.3 per cent. in 1927. There was a large demand for kernels

on the Continent and Germany appropriated 40,377 tons or 60.2 per cent., as compared with 37,314 tons or 57 per cent. in 1927.

The following table shows the exports of palm kernels since 1913 :—

					<i>Tons.</i>
1913	...	...	...	...	49,201
1914	...	...	...	...	35,915
1915	...	...	...	...	39,624
1916	...	...	...	...	45,316
1917	...	...	...	...	58,020
1918	...	...	...	...	40,816
1919	...	...	...	...	50,622
1920	...	...	...	...	50,425
1921	...	...	...	...	40,409
1922	...	...	...	...	49,029
1923	...	...	...	...	59,545
1924	...	...	...	...	61,117
1925	...	...	...	...	63,231
1926	...	...	...	...	65,000
1927	...	...	...	...	65,436
1928	...	...	...	...	67,105

Palm Oil.—The total export of palm oil amounted to 2,525 tons, valued at £66,445, as compared with 3,609 tons, valued at £98,179, in 1927—a decrease of 1,084 tons.

Ginger.—Shipments dropped from 27,354 cwt., valued at £25,981, in 1927 to 20,431 cwt., valued at £30,582, in 1928. 6,081 cwt., valued at £10,715, were shipped to the United Kingdom, 12,845 cwt., valued at £17,942, to the United States of America, 607 cwt., valued at £841, to Germany, 611 cwt., valued at £749, to Canada; and the remainder to France, Gambia, Senegal, and Liberia.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

Of the total import trade, £1,239,807 or 60.35 per cent., came from the United Kingdom, as compared with 61.38 per cent. in 1927, £232,694 or 11.32 per cent. from the United States of America, Germany £156,357 or 7.6 per cent., France £105,996 or 5.15 per cent., and French West African Possessions £120,079 or 5.84 per cent.

Of the gross export trade of £1,829,093, £539,010 or 29.45 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, £728,109 or 39.80 per cent. to Germany, £272,247 or 14.88 per cent. to British West African Possessions, and £29,876 or 1.63 per cent. to the United States of America.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

SHIPPING.

There was an increase of 43 vessels and of 127,297 tons in the number and tonnage of steam vessels entering the Colony during the year. Out of a total of 2,392,603 tons, 62.15 per cent. sailed under the British flag. Dutch vessels were largely responsible for

the increase in shipping, 56,908 more tons being entered from Holland, which now provides 11.96 per cent. of the total. Germany is third with 9.13 per cent., and the United States of America fourth with 7.79 per cent.

Nationality.	Steam Vessels Entered.				Increase.		Decrease.		Percentage proportion of total tonnage entered.	
	1927		1928							
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	1927	1928
American ...	44	148,285	56	186,483	12	38,198	—	—	5.82	7.79
British ...	474	1,495,429	469	1,486,944	—	—	5	8,485	67.84	62.15
Danish ...	2	3,196	6	7,520	4	4,324	—	—	.07	0.32
Dutch ...	98	229,194	125	286,102	27	56,908	—	—	10.02	11.96
French ...	53	129,975	38	105,390	—	—	15	24,585	5.84	4.40
German ...	83	166,067	101	218,474	18	52,407	—	—	6.73	9.13
Italian ...	28	72,388	30	81,614	2	9,228	—	—	3.32	3.41
Norwegian ...	11	20,772	4	6,938	—	—	7	13,834	.36	0.29
Spanish ...	—	—	1	1,197	1	1,197	—	—	—	0.05
Belgian ...	—	—	2	5,237	2	5,237	—	—	—	0.22
Swedish ...	—	—	4	6,704	4	6,704	—	—	—	0.28
Total ...	793	2,265,306	836	2,392,603	43	127,297	—	—	100.00	100.00

The following comparative statement shows the number and tonnage of vessels entered from and cleared to foreign ports in the years 1927 and 1928 :—

Ports.	Vessels Entered.				Increase.		Decrease.	
	1927.		1928.					
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ...	801	2,228,806	827	2,338,541	26	109,735	—	—
Sherbro ...	6	17,589	13	31,864	7	14,275	—	—
Mano Salija ...	18	17,796	15	14,004	—	—	3	3,792
Sulima ...	1	1,927	5	8,836	4	6,909	—	—
Total ...	826	2,266,118	860	2,393,245	34	127,127	—	—

	Vessels Cleared.							
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Freetown ...	776	2,182,530	811	2,311,768	35	129,238	—	—
Sherbro ...	24	55,267	20	44,262	—	—	4	11,005
Mano Salija ...	21	22,247	19	21,418	—	—	2	829
Sulima ...	2	2,876	2	4,138	—	1,262	—	—
Total ...	823	2,262,920	852	2,381,586	29	118,666	—	—

RAILWAYS.

The total length of the line opened remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 338 miles.

The capital expenditure of the railway to the 31st December, 1928, was £1,730,856.

The total revenue of the railway was £258,159, which constitutes the highest figure yet recorded and an increase of £6,682 on the figure for the previous year.

The revenue includes £1,830 for contributions to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund, etc., and £4,500 subsidy paid to revenue by the Government for the loss on the working of the mountain railway.

The expenditure, other than capital, for the year was £290,086, an increase of £21,064. This increase was mainly due to the heavy programme of extraordinary works of a revenue character, renewals, etc. The expenditure includes £85,358 for loan charges, pensions, and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government Departments, and expenses connected with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

The receipts per train mile were 11s. 3.44d. and working expenses per train mile 9s. 2.55d. The working expenses include for the first time pensions and gratuities, cost of services rendered by other Government Departments, and expenses in connection with the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme.

Passenger journeys in the year were 604,737, an increase of 14,839 on the previous year, and the tonnage carried was 78,385 tons against 77,060 in 1927.

			1918		1925		*	1927		1928	
			s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Receipts per train mile	...	...	9	6.11	9	1.79	10	8.46	11	3.44	
Working expenses per train mile	...	...	5	1.09	6	11.56	7	6.80	9	2.55	
Passengers carried	...	...	438,388		587,944			589,898		604,737	
Tonnage carried	...	...	62,084		72,298			77,060		78,385	

* Figures for 1926 are not given as they were affected by the strike which was in progress for six weeks during that year.

The total rolling stock in use consisted of 42 locomotives, 85 coaching vehicles, and 348 goods vehicles.

ROADS.

The following mileage of first-class roads has been completed and is open for motor traffic :—

Pujehun-Kumrabai-Mamila	...	...	...	107
Mano-Taiama	...	...	...	15
Moyamba-Sembehun	...	...	...	19
Boadgibu-Panguma	...	...	...	62
Segbwema-Gandorhun	...	...	...	36
Pendembu-Mafindo	...	...	...	24
Kamabai-Kabala	...	...	...	22
Koribundo-Sumbuya	...	...	...	21
Koribundu-Blama	...	...	...	28
Zimi-Sulima	...	...	...	20
Pujehun-Mani	...	...	...	10
Kailahun-Dodo	...	...	...	10
				374

The following mileage of first-class roads is under construction or under survey :—

Kailahun-Dodo	...	...	...	5
Kamabai-Kabala	...	...	...	35
Zimi-Sulima	...	...	...	12
Sumbuya-Mattru	...	...	...	16 $\frac{3}{4}$
Gandorhun-Sefadu	...	...	...	20
Yoni-Potoro	...	...	...	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Port Loko-Batkanu	...	...	...	36
Makeni-Sella Limba	...	...	...	40
				185 $\frac{1}{4}$

The following are being constructed as pioneer roads :—

Pujehun-Mani ;
Sumbuya-Mattru ;
Gandorhun-Sefadu ;
Kamabai-Kabala.

WATERWAYS.

There is a considerable mileage of waterways in the Colony and Protectorate, but they are navigable only for light-draught vessels. Even so, large quantities of produce are brought to Freetown and Bonthe by these waterways. An important waterway has been opened up between Bonthe and Yoni via Mani.

POSTAL.

The results for the year show a further general expansion in postal business.

The number of post offices and agencies open at the end of the year was 73 (22 and 71, respectively) ; a fresh agency having been opened at Rokel, and that at Bullom having been re-opened. Money-order business was transacted at 24 offices and postal-order business at 55.

Revenue and expenditure for each of the years 1926-1928 are shown below :—

<i>Revenue.</i>					1926	1927	1928
					£	£	£
Postal Revenue	...	...	...	...	13,215	16,462	16,865
Customs Duties collected on parcels	...	...	...	...	7,710	9,887	10,292
Sale of Stamps for Inland Revenue purposes	...	...	...	...	3,283	3,928	3,943
Total collections	...	...	...	...	24,208	30,277	31,100

Expenditure.

17,330 18,115 19,318

The total number of articles which passed through the Post Office during the year is estimated at 2,012,559, as against 1,882,290 in 1927, an increase of 130,269. The total is made up as follows :—

					<i>Other</i>			
					<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Post-cards.</i>	<i>Articles.</i>	<i>Totals.</i>
Despatched to England	...	...	...	...	171,311	8,088	15,492	194,891
Received from England	...	...	...	...	219,621	4,605	297,488	521,714
Despatched to inter-colonial ports	...	...	...	...	114,859	314	21,905	137,078
Received from inter-colonial ports	...	...	...	...	118,097	650	10,127	128,874
Inland	...	...	...	...	901,315	3,393	125,294	1,030,002
					1,525,203	17,050	470,306	2,012,559

113,638 registered articles are included in the above figures (106,374 in 1927).

The money-order transactions numbered 6,306 and amounted to £53,086. The details as compared with 1927 are shown below :—

					1928		1927	
					<i>Number.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>
						£		£
Received from England	...	...	...	...	521	2,417	495	2,993
Despatched to England	...	...	...	...	1,534	9,430	1,477	8,579
Received from West African Colonies.	...	...	...	...	835	10,901	767	10,756
Despatched to West African Colonies.	...	...	...	...	413	3,885	408	4,421
Inland	...	...	...	...	3,003	26,453	2,561	21,019
Total	...	...	...	...	6,306	53,086	5,708	47,768

Postal orders issued numbered 61,305, value £42,407, and orders paid 48,059, value £34,407. The corresponding figures for 1927 were 60,357, value £41,476, and 49,367, value £35,836.

There was a fair increase in parcel-post business ; 51,563 parcels being dealt with, as against 48,922 in the previous year. Parcels exchanged with England increased by 3,118 and those from Nigeria decreased by 853.

The cash-on-delivery service (instituted on 1st January, 1926) with Great Britain and Northern Ireland continues to show considerable progress. No such parcels were posted locally for Great Britain.

Details as to the parcels dealt with since the commencement of the service are shown below :—

Year.		No. of Parcels received.				Total.	Value.	Parcels Delivered.		Parcels Returned.	
		G.P.O.		District Offices.				No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		No.	Value.	No.	Value.						
			£		£		£		£		£
1926	...	2,850	6,797	1,944	4,443	4,794	11,240	4,135	9,550	233	685
1927	...	5,281	11,619	5,841	12,027	11,122	23,646	9,376	19,776	1,037	2,450
1928	...	6,749	14,608	7,545	14,705	14,294	29,313	12,060	24,575	1,894	4,179

CABLES AND WIRELESS.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintain a cable office and a low-power wireless telegraph station at Freetown. There is also a cable from the mainland to Sherbro Island and Bonthe.

TELEGRAPHS.

The internal telegraph system is maintained by the Railway Department. There is a telegraph service to Pendembu, the eastern terminus of the Railway (227½ miles from Freetown), with transmitting stations at Boia and Bo. There are also various telegraph services in the Protectorate.

TELEPHONES.

The telephone service is maintained by the Railway Department. There are no privately-owned telephone exchanges.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

The Courts of the Colony consist of the Courts of the Tribal Rulers, the Police Court of Freetown, and the Freetown Court of Requests, the Courts of the District Commissioners of the Bonthe and the Headquarters Judicial Districts, and the Courts of Requests of those districts, the Coroners' Courts, the Supreme Court in its

Summary Jurisdiction and the Supreme Court in its Ordinary Jurisdiction ; the Full Court of Appeal and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of the Protectorate consist of the Courts of the Native Chiefs, the Courts of the District Commissioners, the Combined Courts and the Circuit Court of the Protectorate.

POLICE.

The health of the Force was normal, and there was no epidemic.

The standard of discipline improved during the year. Two constables were sentenced to imprisonment and dismissed from the Force and in addition one non-commissioned officer and three constables were dismissed. There were only three cases of drunkenness, two of these being by men off duty.

There was a diminution in crime.

The following table shows the number of cases reported, arrests made, number of convictions and the percentage of convictions to arrests for the last three years.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i>	<i>Arrests made.</i>	<i>Convictions.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
1926 ...	1,887	2,346	1,657	70.6
1927 ...	2,209	2,259	1,815	80.3
1928 ...	1,782	1,935	1,498	77.4

The following is a comparative statement of serious crimes reported during the past two years :—

				1927.	1928.
Murder	...	...	...	—	1
Manslaughter	...	...	...	3	3
Housebreaking	...	...	...	2	—
Burglary	...	...	...	2	7
Shopbreaking	...	...	...	4	—
Larceny	...	...	...	331	328
Receiving	...	...	...	25	21

PRISONS.

The number of persons committed to the Freetown Prison during the two years 1927 and 1928 was as follows :—

				1927.	1928.
Males	...	...	...	850	723
Females	...	...	...	14	10
Juveniles	...	...	...	3	22

The daily average number in custody during the year 1928 was :—

Males	...	...	...	...	256
Females	...	...	...	...	2

The health of the prisoners was good. There were no epidemics.

The number of persons committed to the Protectorate prisons during 1928 was 876, as against 696 in 1927. The daily average in custody was 147 as compared with 138 in 1927.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Certain public works of considerable importance were undertaken during the year. Among these were the following :—

- (a) New Government Offices.
- (b) Governor's Lodge, Hill Station.
- (c) Connaught Hospital—New Ward Block.
- (d) Agricultural College, N'jala.
- (e) New Hospital, Makeni.

In the course of the year a valuable report on the administration of the Public Works Department was made by Mr. E. H. D. Nicolls, C.M.G., O.B.E., who was selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the purpose. All the recommendations made by Mr. Nicolls were carefully considered by Government and as many as possible were put into effect before the end of the year.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS.

European Hospital, Hill Station.—The increase in the number of cases treated is partly due to the transfer of the Royal West African Frontier Force from the Protectorate to Freetown and to the medical charge of the Imperial troops being assumed by Government.

				<i>Total cases.</i>	<i>Government officials.</i>
1925	...	...	...	111	37
1926	...	...	...	125	45
1927	...	...	...	136	51
1928	...	...	...	163	70

Connaught Hospital, Freetown.—The new ward-block, 32 beds, and children's ward, 8 beds, have been erected during the year and will be opened in the New Year.

There has been a reduction in the number of patients admitted during the year, but the average stay has been longer, and the surgical wards have been constantly crowded.

				<i>Admissions.</i>	<i>Maternity Section.</i>
1925	...	...	...	1,860	263
1926	...	...	...	1,867	251
1927	...	...	...	2,046	301
1928	...	...	...	1,945	311

The out-patient department has moved into the new building and working facilities have been vastly improved. There has been a falling off in new cases, the numbers dealt with being 13,864 new cases and 47,040 subsequent attendances, compared with 14,780 and 49,560 respectively in 1927.

Lunatic Asylum, Kissy.—There has been a steady increase in the numbers of patients, and extension is now necessary. There were 65 admissions during the year, and 16 deaths—the total number treated was 160, of whom 106 remained at the end of the year.

Kissy Infirmaries.—These institutions, which are constantly full, house destitute people who are infirm or have chronic and incurable diseases ; 257 cases were treated during the year.

The Sherbro Hospital, Bonthe.—496 cases were admitted during the year. The out-patient department dealt with 3,933 new cases, and the subsequent attendances numbered 14,155.

Protectorate Hospital, Bo, Central Province.—This is the first permanent hospital to be built in the Protectorate, and is one of a projected series. The second is now in course of erection at Makeni in the Northern Province.

The total number of in-patients treated was 102, and in the out-patients department there were 2,817 new cases, and the total attendance numbered 9,208.

POPULATION, BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	<i>Population,</i> 1921 Census.	<i>Birth-rate</i> per 1,000.	<i>Death-rate</i> per 1,000.	<i>Infantile</i> <i>Mortality</i> per 1,000 <i>births.</i>
Freetown	44,142	23.5	31.5	364
Colony (other than Freetown).	41,021	23.2	25.4	264

Owing to the non-registration of many births, the “available” birth-rate is undoubtedly much below the actual birth-rate, and for this reason the infantile mortality rate (which is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births) appears a good deal higher than it actually is. It is, nevertheless, excessively high, and with a view to reducing it, infant welfare work is being undertaken on an increasing scale. According to the 1921 Census, the males exceeded the females by 28.5 per cent. and 24.3 per cent. in Freetown and the rest of the Colony respectively. This is an additional factor in producing the low birth-rate.

Owing to the fact that the last Census was taken in 1921, there is probably a considerable error in the population figure. There is no means of correcting this since methods of estimation employed elsewhere are inapplicable here owing to movement of population.

SANITATION.

The port of Freetown was never in quarantine during the year. Owing to the existence of yellow fever or plague in several West African colonies, both to the north and to the south of Sierra Leone, port health work continued to be heavy. Practically all ships arriving in Freetown harbour were visited by the Medical Officer of Health. Passengers arriving from infected ports were kept under strict surveillance and, where necessary, their baggage was disinfected.

Both Colony and Protectorate remained free from epidemic disease.

Pneumonia and bronchitis have an appreciable effect on the death-rate, especially in the early months of the year when the dry north-east wind (Harmattan) prevails.

The Superintendent of the Freetown Waterworks reports that, except for a week at the end of April, there was no shortage of water during the year. The total consumption for all purposes was 166,664,000 gallons, including 4,539,000 gallons supplied to shipping.

Record of Vaccinations performed.

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Number vaccinated ...	13,669	13,389	13,953
„ successful ...	7,491	8,109	8,417
„ unsuccessful ...	3,873	2,716	2,609
„ not inspected	2,305	2,564	2,927

CLIMATE.

The climate of Sierra Leone is tropical, with a heavy rainfall and high atmospheric humidity during the greater part of the year. The shade temperature rarely falls below 70 degrees. On the other hand, the shade temperature, even in the dry season, rarely rises above 95 degrees, and there is always a sufficient daily range of temperature to render the mornings and evenings relatively cool. There are four months of very dry weather, when little or no rain falls, and four months of varying conditions, with a moderate rainfall for a tropical country. There is a single rainy season lasting roughly from May to the end of October. This occurs during the period of the south-west monsoon. It is preceded and followed by a period of thunderstorms, known as tornadoes, which travel from east to west. In August there is sometimes a slight break in the rains.

July, August, and September are the months of the heaviest rainfall. The rainfall is highest on the coast, decreasing gradually inland. Rainfall records taken in Freetown (Tower Hill), 180 feet above sea-level, for the past 40 years are available, and the following for each of the last four decennia shows very markedly the decrease in the rainfall, which is said to be common to the whole of West Africa and the neighbouring islands :—

AVERAGE RAINFALL, FREETOWN (TOWER HILL).

<i>Period.</i>						<i>Average Rainfall, in inches.</i>
1882-1891	...	...	...	...	...	166.07
1892-1901	...	...	...	...	...	165.15
1902-1911	...	...	...	...	...	156.00
1912-1921	...	...	...	...	...	122.66

The highest rainfall recorded was 204.19 inches in 1883, and the lowest 102.34 inches in 1914.

In December and January, Sierra Leone comes into the region of the north-east "Trades," and the resultant wind, known as the "Harmattan," blows from N.N.E. It is an exceedingly dry wind, and it is accompanied by a thick haze, probably composed of minute particles of dust. During this period there are cool nights and hot days, and the maximum diurnal variations are registered. The lowest mean temperatures are usually recorded in the months of July and August.

The rainfall in Freetown in 1928 was 148.54 inches ; this is slightly below the average for the past 40 years (152.47 inches).

The highest rainfall recorded in any one day was 5.32 inches on the 2nd September. The lowest temperature recorded at the Tower Hill Observatory was 67 degrees on the 29th, 30th, and 31st January; the highest, 93 degrees, on the 17th April.

IX.—EDUCATION.

From the beginning of the present year primary education in the Colony passed under the new scheme of amalgamating mission schools, thus building up stronger centres and in a measure providing separate schools for infants and standard classes. The payment of teachers having been taken over by Government, much closer attention is being paid to qualifications, and with the additional supervision now provided the grade of work should steadily improve.

In the Protectorate, while the old system still obtains, plans are under consideration for the complete reorganization of all schools.

The following table gives the figures of all primary schools conducted or assisted by Government in both Colony and Protectorate :—

Protectorate.—

<i>Schools.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Number on Roll.</i>	<i>Average Attendance.</i>
Church of England	12	731	493
Wesleyan Methodist	16	829	608
Roman Catholic	9	814	612
United Brethren-in-Christ	17	1,244	905
United Methodist	3	200	157
Countess of Huntingdon	1	29	26
United Brethren-in-Africa	2	77	61
American Methodist Episcopal	2	251	193
Society for the Propagation of the Gospel... ..	1	74	48
Magburaka (Private)	1	81	51
Moyamba (Amalgamated)	1	79	45
Government	10	739	576
Colony	47	7,126	4,756
	122	12,274	8,531

The figures for the Colony only are :—

(a) Primary Schools.

	<i>No.</i>	<i>Number on Roll.</i>	<i>Average Attendance.</i>
Government	1	316	261
Amalgamated Mission (Urban)	21	4,442	2,970
Amalgamated Mission (Rural)	25	2,368	1,525

(b) Secondary Schools.

<i>School.</i>	<i>Controlling Authority.</i>	<i>Primary Classes.</i>	<i>Preparatory and Secondary Classes.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Boys.—				
Prince of Wales	Government	—	104	104
*C.M.S. Grammar School	C.E.	46	186	232
Wesleyan Boys' High School	Wesleyan	87	73	160
Albert Academy	U.B.C.	—	81	81
St. Edward's	R.C.	—	54	54
A.M.E. Seminary	A.M.E.	58	28	86
Girls.—				
*Annie Walsh Memorial	C.E.	159	55	214
St. Joseph's Convent	R.C.	148	18	166
Wesleyan Girls' High	Wesleyan	22	28	50
Freetown Secondary School for Girls	Private	110	45	155
*Girls' Vocational	Private	42	—	42
		672	672	1,344

* Non-aided.

The Prince of Wales' School is well equipped with laboratories, and with two European science masters, now reinforced by an African, lays special stress on the teaching of science. A scheme is on foot for the inclusion of technical instruction.

TRADE SCHOOLS.

In the Colony there are three schools for boys undertaking trade preparation work :—

- (i) Albert Academy, taking carpentry and printing.
- (ii) Church of England Technical School, taking carpentry and theoretical building construction, with 30 pupils.
- (iii) Sir Alfred Jones's Trade School, taking carpentry, with 22 pupils.

The teaching of domestic science is gradually gaining ground in the girls' schools, the Convent and A.M.E. Schools offering definite training.

Fourah Bay College, which is affiliated with Durham University, prepares students for the degrees of that University. The staff consisted of a European Principal, four African Tutors, and two European ladies who gave occasional lectures. The number of students for the year was 17, of whom 9 were in residence. 4 Degrees and 2 Diplomas were conferred during the year.

In addition to the above, the College undertakes the training of male teachers for primary schools. Government meets the expense of a European and an African Tutor, and grants scholarships to students, as well as providing grants for equipment and general expenses.

The training of female teachers for primary schools is now undertaken by the Wesleyan Missionary Society at its College at Wilberforce, where Government meets the expense of three European Mistresses, students' scholarships, and otherwise assists in the cost of training.

PROTECTORATE SCHOOLS.

There are 10 schools conducted directly by Government, with a roll of 739 pupils, all of whom are boys. These schools, with the exception of Bo School, and N'jala Agricultural School, are rural schools of junior primary grade.

Bo School.—This school is intended for the education of sons and nominees of Chiefs. Nine of the present paramount chiefs are old Bo School pupils, while over 100 ex-pupils are now in Government service. The school is performing its special function with considerable success. All the students, now numbering 164, are boarders.

N'jala Agricultural School has grown in popularity, the numbers having risen to 201, while many have had to be turned away. The staff is entirely African. Discipline and progress have been well maintained under the officer in charge, Rev. A. T. Sumner, M.B.E., M.A. Owing to lack of space and other reasons, the school is closing down on its present site and transferring with all but its two junior classes to the new Central Protectorate College which is to be set up near Mongheri.

The eight other Government schools perform some useful work, but much improvement is required, both in the efficiency of the teaching and in the redirection of aims. The first stages of a child's education will in future be given in its mother tongue, and local interests and occupations will be dealt with in the curriculum.

Eleven missionary societies are conducting 72 assisted schools, with 3,643 boys and 1,237 girls on roll, and 51 unassisted schools with probably 1,000 pupils. A proposal for the reorganization of Education in the Protectorate contemplates a difference in the present form of assistance, but with the regrouping recommended it is expected that the total assistance afforded to Missions will be considerably greater than at present.

X. LANDS AND SURVEY.

LANDS.

The work of this branch calls for no special comment. Through force of circumstances, the Lands Officer was called upon to officiate in certain other capacities during the year.

SURVEY.

Topographical.—Seventeen points were fixed by the framework camp by astronomical and wireless methods. The newly-appointed framework officer did not arrive in the Colony until the 28th January. One of the best months of the year for observing was therefore lost.

235 miles of topographical levels were completed with satisfactory results, this work being carried out entirely by young African surveyors.

11,573 miles of compass traverse, together with aneroid levels, were run. This mileage represents the detail survey of some 7,500 square miles of country. Nineteen sheets were completely surveyed.

During the year, eight sheets were published at Accra, and proof copies of a further 10 sheets were prepared for final check.

The largest staff in the field at any one time consisted of 4 Europeans and 28 Africans. Of these latter, 24 have been trained entirely within the Department since its creation at the end of 1925.

The Topographical Branch sustained a serious loss through the death, from blackwater fever, of Lieutenant P. B. H. Carden, Royal Engineers, on the 4th April, 1928.

Cadastral.—The chief work of the Cadastral Branch during the year has been the layout of the platinum area in the Colony and the gold area in the Northern province of the Protectorate. The former included 24 miles and the latter 35 miles of theodolite traverse which had to be executed under the most unfavourable conditions, both as regards terrain and weather.

In the Colony, ordinary methods of chaining were frequently found to be out of the question owing to the rugged nature of the

country, and it was necessary to obtain distances by subtense methods. A considerable amount of other theodolite traverse was also executed, the line along the western shore of the Peninsula being of importance.

The survey of the environs of Freetown was continued as opportunity offered but, owing to the necessity for the constant moves of surveyors from this to other areas, there was little continuity in the work.

The invaliding, during March, of the officer in charge of the Cadastal Branch, and his absence from the Colony for the remainder of the year, was a great misfortune. The African field staff never exceeded nine surveyors, of whom six were apprentices. The services of a European and two African Surveyors were loaned from the Gold Coast for a period of about six months in connection with the survey of the platinum area.

Survey School.—No new admissions were made to the Survey School. The pupils, 24 in number, spent some eight months in the field and were in residence at Kortright during the worst period of the wet season. The instructor was on leave in England until the middle of April and on his return was employed on administrative duties at Survey Headquarters pending the reopening of the School in June. Progress was satisfactory.

GEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

During 1928 the Department actively continued the investigation of the geology and mineral resources of the Colony and Protectorate.

The bulk of the field work was carried out in the Northern Province but reconnaissances were also made in the Central and Southern Provinces. The mapping of the auriferous belt of rocks found by the Director in 1926 in the Koinadugu District was commenced and the belt was found to extend for a considerable distance into the Bombali District. Encouraging prospects of gold were found in several places.

A preliminary survey of the water-power resources of the Protectorate was undertaken and has demonstrated that these resources are very large and are of considerable potential importance.

The workings on the haematite deposits near Marampa were examined and reported on.

During the rainy season the Department was engaged in research work on the material collected during the previous tour. A large number of thin sections of rocks from the norite mass of the Colony and from various places in the Protectorate were examined and qualitative and quantitative determinations of several specimens were made.

Important deposits of gold, ilmenite, manganese, graphite, and corundum were discovered during the year.

XI. LABOUR.

Unskilled labour in the Colony and Protectorate is easy to obtain. The wages paid average about 1s. per diem.

There is in the Protectorate a system of communal labour which is performed by the natives as a form of tax payable to the chiefs. Such communal labour is called up in accordance with native custom for works of a public character, e.g., road-making, construction of native-built (mud) houses, but a system of payment for such labour is now being gradually introduced.

The demand for skilled labour is met by artisans trained by various Government departments or missions.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS.

LEGISLATION.

1. Thirty-four Ordinances were enacted during the year 1928. Of these, 30 either amended or repealed existing measures, 2 dealt with supply, and the 2 remaining Ordinances relate to matters which had not previously formed the subject of legislation.

The two latter Ordinances were :—

(a) *The Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance* (No. 28), which provides for the registration of designs registered in the United Kingdom under the Patents and Designs Acts, 1907 and 1919.

(b) *The Public Transport Services Ordinance* (No. 29), which empowers the Government to run public transport services for the conveyance of passengers and goods between such points as the Governor-in-Council may determine, and to restrict competition on the routes used.

The principal amending Ordinances passed were the following :—

(a) *The Supreme Court (Amendment) Ordinance* (No. 1), which requires persons who are entitled to practise as Barristers in England, Northern Ireland, or in the Irish Free State, or as Advocates in Scotland, to have read in Chambers or to have practised in order to be qualified for admission as Barristers of the Colony.

(b) *The Travelling Commissioners Ordinance* (No. 6), which, with a view to the relief of District Commissioners, enables the Governor to appoint Travelling Commissioners for all or any of the districts of the Protectorate, and provides that a Travelling Commissioner shall in any district for which he is appointed have the same powers as the District Commissioner of that district.

(c) *The Crown Lands (Transfer of Control) Ordinance* (No. 12), which transferred the control of Crown Lands from the Public Works Department to the Survey Department.

(d) *The Freetown Improvement (Extension) (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13)*, which empowers the Governor-in-Council, with the approval of the Legislative Council, to make rules for fixing building lines in urban areas, and itself prescribes building lines for certain important thoroughfares in the First Urban Area.

(e) *The Medical Practitioners, Midwives, Dentists, and Drug-gists (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 15)*, which makes provision for according temporary registration as medical practitioners to medical missionaries whose qualifications are not such as to allow of their permanent registration.

(f) *The Native Produce Ordinance (No. 16)*, which amends and consolidates three Ordinances and seven sets of Rules relating to native produce.

(g) *The Minerals (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17)*, which makes various amendments in the Minerals Ordinance, No. 36 of 1927, and in particular amends that Ordinance so as to empower the Governor-in-Council, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State, to make rules enabling the Governor to invite tenders for the grant of exclusive prospecting licences, mining rights or mining leases in respect of areas in any tract of land in which any mineral has been discovered by Government.

(h) *The Freetown Waterworks (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 30)* which enables the city Council of Freetown to supply water to areas outside the City.

Ninety-four subordinate legislative measures were also enacted.

BANKS.

2. There are two Banks—the Bank of British West Africa, Limited, and Messrs. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), Limited—both with headquarters in Freetown. The former has a branch at Sherbro and agencies at the more important trade centres in the Protectorate. The Government has accounts at both Banks.

Each Bank has a savings bank branch, which forms an important part of its business, and materially affects the transactions of the Government Savings Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

3. The deposits numbered 11,634, of the value of £29,154 19s. 1d. as compared with 11,436, value £25,831 12s. 1d., in 1927.

Withdrawals totalled 7,387 and amounted to £30,227 9s. 0d., as against 6,134, value £25,365 13s. 4d., in the previous year.

The average value of each deposit was £2 10s. 1d. and of each withdrawal £4 1s. 10d., as compared with £2 5s. 2d. and £4 2s. 8d., respectively, in 1927.

During the year, 1,887 accounts were opened and 1,333 closed ; the corresponding figures for 1927 were 1,756 and 1,165.

At the end of the year there were 6,964 depositors on the books, and the amount standing to their credit was £64,410 5s. 6½d., an increase of 554 accounts and £380 3s. 3d. for the year, and the average value of each account was £9 5s. 0d. as against £9 19s. 9d.

The total sum invested was £61,697 18s. 8d.

The dividends received on investments amounted to £2,343 7s. 6d. and the interest capitalised and credited to depositors was £1,452 13s. 2d.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

Plant and Animal Products.

4. During the year 1928 the following investigations were carried out for Sierra Leone. All the samples received for examination were forwarded by the Commissioner of Lands and Forests.

Sorleh seed.—Two samples of this seed were submitted and were found to resemble samples of *Pentadesma butyracea* seed previously received at the Imperial Institute. They contained respectively 48.5 and 49.7 per cent. of hard fat, which was found to agree in physical and chemical characters with the fat from the earlier samples. The fat would be suitable for soap or candle making, but the residual meal contains only a low amount of nitrogen and would have little manurial value. A firm of oilseed crushers consulted by the Imperial Institute offered to purchase a trial shipment of 50 tons of the seed at £13 per ton.

Particulars were also furnished to a firm of merchants in Freetown regarding the results of the examination of Sorleh seed at the Imperial Institute and as to the disposal of commercial supplies of the seed in the United Kingdom.

Magbevi nuts (Chailletia Toxicaria).—In continuation of work carried out in 1927, Dr. M. Rabinovich, of the School of Medicine, Leeds University, furnished a detailed report on the results of his investigation of these nuts as a rat poison.

Coffee.—A sample of Robusta coffee was found to be of normal composition and fair quality, and was valued in London at from 75s. to 80s. per cwt., with Java Robusta at 88s. to 92s., and Uganda Robusta at 80s. to 84s. per cwt.

Bark of Haronga paniculata.—An extract of this bark is used locally by the natives for protecting cattle from the attacks of certain flies, and it was desired that the insecticidal properties of the bark should be determined. At the request of the Imperial Institute the Rothamsted Experimental Station kindly undertook this investigation, as a result of which it was concluded that the bark is not likely to be of value for the preparation of an insecticide for horticultural purposes.

Egusie seed and Cassava starch.—Information was furnished to the Commissioner of Lands and Forests regarding the marketing of Egusie seed and Cassava starch, together with the names of firms in the United Kingdom who were willing to take consignments of these products from Sierra Leone.

Ginger and Chillies.—Particulars regarding crop reports on ginger and chillies and the domestic exports of ginger from the Colony were supplied to firms of produce brokers in London.

Palm Kernels.—In connection with an enquiry regarding the possibilities of developing the export of palm kernels from Sierra Leone to Canada, recommendations were made as to the action to be taken to promote the use of palm kernel cake as a feeding stuff in the Dominion.

Mangrove bark and other products.—Particulars were supplied to a firm in Freetown regarding the trade prospects for mangrove bark and other Sierra Leone products.

Other enquiries dealt with during the year had reference to the identity and uses of *Carpaya* root ; the cultivation of bananas ; the utilization of mangrove bark as a tanning material ; forestry in Sierra Leone ; and general conditions in the Colony.

The following articles of special interest to Sierra Leone were published during the year in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* :—

“ Fruit Cultivation in Sierra Leone.”

“ Toxic Properties of West African Ratsbane.”

“ Coffee from Sierra Leone.”

“ Recent Research on Empire Products.”

Mineral Resources.

During the year 1928 the following investigations and inquiries were carried out for Sierra Leone.

Iron ores.—Two samples of iron ore received from the Director of the Geological Survey of Sierra Leone were found to contain about 76 per cent. of ferric oxide, but the presence in each case of large percentages of titanium dioxide rendered the material of no value as iron ores. It is interesting to note that one sample contained a trace of platinum.

Platinum.—A sample of supposed platinum-bearing norite was examined for the Director of the Survey but, although traces of gold were present, no trace of platinum could be detected.

Progress reports furnished by the Director of the Sierra Leone Geological Survey on the occurrence of platinum, iron ore, laterite and lateritic soils were published in the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* during the year.

Public Exhibition Galleries. Sierra Leone Court.

The improvements to the Court, made possible as a result of the special grant from the Sierra Leone Government and the donation of private firms, have been continued.

A diorama of Freetown Harbour, provided out of funds generously given by Messrs. Elder Dempster, and one of the piassava industry have been completed and installed in the Court. These diorama were shown at the British Industries Fair; the former was lent to the Exhibition Commissioner for use in the Sierra Leone exhibit, and the latter was included in the display arranged by the Imperial Institute.

Photographs of the ginger industry have now been received, and a diorama to illustrate this industry will now be put in hand, funds for this purpose having been generously provided by Messrs. Paterson Zochonis.

The samples of products handed over to the Institute at the close of the British Industries Fair have been used to replenish the exhibits in the Court.

The lectures to organised parties from schools have been continued; also the distribution of samples of products, literature and postcards relating to Sierra Leone.

The public attendance at the Galleries during the year was 345,961. Adjoining the Exhibition Galleries is the Cinema Theatre of the Institute, which was equipped and is maintained by the Empire Marketing Board.

Films depicting the life, scenery, and industries of the various countries of the Empire are shown free daily to the public. During the year under review 214,830 persons attended the various displays.

APPENDIX.

LIST OF CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS OBTAINABLE FROM THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES, 4, MILLBANK, LONDON, S.W.1, OR FROM THE GOVERNMENT STATIONERY STORE, FREETOWN.

	<i>Publications.</i>					<i>Price.</i>
Governor's Address on the Estimates	...	...	...	...	...	1s.
Blue Book (postage 1s. extra)	...	...	...	...	...	12s. 6d.
Legislative Council Debates	...	...	...	...	...	6d.—1s. 6d.
Gazettes	...	...	...	...	...	6d. per copy
Gazettes Annual Subscription	...	...	...	...	...	£1 5s.
Gazettes Trade Supplement	...	...	...	...	...	4d. per copy (1d. a leaf)
Handbook of Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	...	10s. 6d.
Customs Trade Report	...	...	...	...	...	5s.
Customs Tariff, Rents, Fees, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6d.
Report on the Fishery Resources of Sierra Leone	...	...	...	...	...	1s. 6d.
Handbook on the Tsetse Fly	...	...	...	...	...	5s.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report.

[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.] 4s. 0d. (4s. 6d.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.

Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9d.).

COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3261.] 9d. (10d.).

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND IN THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH COLONIAL QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER, 1924, TO NOVEMBER, 1928

[Cmd. 3268.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

HIS MAJESTY'S COLONIAL SERVICES.

Regulations. (October, 1928.) Colonial No. 37. 6d. (8d.).

All prices are net, and those in parentheses include postage.

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H.M. Stationery Office publishes the Annual Reports on British Colonies and Protectorates. These Reports appear each year and they are supplied at the Subscription price of 40s. per annum. Individual Reports may also be purchased and standing orders placed for their annual supply.

BAHAMAS.
BARBADOS.
BASUTOLAND.
BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE
BERMUDA.
BRITISH GUIANA.
BRITISH HONDURAS.
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PRO-
TECTORATE.
BRUNEI, STATE OF.
CAYMAN ISLANDS (JAMAICA).
CEYLON.
COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
REPORT.
CYPRUS.
FALKLAND ISLANDS.
FEDERATED MALAY STATES.
FIJI.
GAMBIA.
GIBRALTAR.
GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS.
GOLD COAST.
GRENADA.
HONG KONG.
JAMAICA.

JOHORE.
KEDAH AND PERLIS.
KELANTAN.
KENYA COLONY & PROTECTORATE.
LEEWARD ISLANDS.
MAURITIUS.
NEW HEBRIDES.
NIGERIA.
NORTHERN RHODESIA.
NYASALAND.
ST. HELENA.
ST. LUCIA.
ST. VINCENT.
SEYCHELLES.
SIERRA LEONE.
SOMALILAND.
STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.
SWAZILAND.
TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.
TRENGGANU.
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO.
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS.
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WEI-HAI-WEI.
ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

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325.342
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1431

CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica)

REPORT FOR 1928

*(For Report for 1926 see No. 1337 (price 3d.) and for
Report for 1927 see No. 1382 (price 6d.).)*



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58-1431

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

- Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to May, 1927. Cmd. 2898. 3d. (3½d.).
- Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).
- Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).
- Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 3.) 3d. (3½d.).
- Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9d. (10d.).
- Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6d. (7d.).
- Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).
- The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Empire Marketing Board. May, 1927 to May, 1928. (E.M.B. 9.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6d. (8d.).
- Viticultural Research. (E.M.B. 11.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).
- Survey Method of Research in Farm Economics. January, 1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6d. (8d.).
- Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared in the Statistics and Intelligence Branch. April, 1929. (E.M.B. 15.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 3d.).
- Development of Agriculture in British Honduras. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 16.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).
- Schistosomiasis and Malaria in Relation to Irrigation. May, 1929. (E.M.B. 17.) 1s. 3d. (1s. 5d.).

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1929.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Dependency of Jamaica).

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
Prefatory Note—	
Geographical... ..	2
Historical	3
Constitution	3
I. General	3
II. Finance	4
III. Production	5
IV. Trade and Economics	6
V. Communications	6
VI. Justice, Police, and Prisons... ..	7
VII. Public Works... ..	7
VIII. Public Health	7
IX. Education	8
X. Lands and Survey	8
XI. Labour	8

PREFATORY NOTE.

Geographical.

The Cayman Islands consist of three small islands in the Caribbean Sea lying north-west of Jamaica and approximately midway between that island and the south-west coast of Cuba. Sixty miles intervene between Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, and ten miles east of the latter is Cayman Brac. The group lies between 79.83° and 81.30° West longitude, and the 19th and 20th parallels of North latitude. Grand Cayman, the largest of the islands, is 17 miles in length from east to west, four miles in width at the east end and seven at the west. No part of the island is more than fifty feet above the surrounding ocean. Cayman Brac is eleven miles long, by one and a-quarter at its widest. Traversing its length from east to west is a central ridge of rock with precipitous sides, 150 feet high at the eastern end and sloping to the general level a few feet above the sea at the western end. Water-worn caverns are noticed along the entire length of this ridge, locally called the bluff, indicating that the low land about the base, much the smaller part of the island's area, has been more recently, in a geological sense, elevated above the sea. Little Cayman, the smallest of the group, is flat, and largely a sand ridge above the surrounding ocean. There are

no outlying cays or reefs. The hundred fathoms ocean depth closely encircles the islands. A basin in the ocean floor, known as Bartlett's Deep and said to be one of the deepest areas in the Caribbean lies parallel with and south of the islands from twenty-five to fifty miles off shore.

Historical.

The islands were discovered by Columbus on the 10th May, 1503, but were not occupied by the Spaniards. They were first called Las Tortugas, on account of the number of turtle in the surrounding waters. The present name is supposed to be derived from "caiman"—alligator—this reptile being at one time numerous in the smallest island. Settlement flowed from Jamaica in the first half of the 18th century; but many of the present inhabitants bear the surnames of British seamen, wrecked either on the islands or on the neighbouring coast of Cuba, who have remained domiciled in the Dependency.

Constitution.

In the early days of settlement public affairs were managed by the Justices of the Peace appointed by the Governor of Jamaica acting with and under the direction of a locally-elected "governor." To this body elected Vestrymen were subsequently added, and in 1833 a *Custos* was commissioned. In 1863 an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament (26 and 27 Vic., chap. 31) recognising the existence of acts and resolutions passed by the local body and validifying such as should be subsequently assented to by the Governor of Jamaica. Under this authority the Justices and Vestry therein mentioned revised the local enactments, and twenty Acts passed at various times between the 2nd January, 1832, and the 1st July, 1864, were submitted to Governor Eyre of Jamaica and signed by him in assent on the 24th March, 1865. As provided in the Imperial Act, the Legislature of Jamaica may make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Dependency and may amend or repeal any of the laws locally passed. Under the provisions of Jamaica Law 24 of 1898, as amended by Law 33 of 1920, the Governor of Jamaica has power to appoint a Commissioner to administer the affairs of the Dependency.

The Commissioner performs the duties of Collector-General and Treasurer, and presides, ex officio in the absence of a special appointment, as Judge of the Grand Court, where, when sitting alone, he has the powers of three Justices of the Peace. He has no jurisdiction in cases of capital felony.

I.—GENERAL.

MAIL AND PASSENGER SERVICE.

The continuance through 1928 of the mail and passenger service with Jamaica established in 1927 under contract with the two Governments has further shown itself to be of great public utility

and, it is satisfactory to report, the venture, due entirely to local enterprise and capital, has been a financial success. A regular service has been maintained, also by motor-vessel, between Grand Cayman, the Isle of Pines in Cuba, and Tampa in the Southern United States of America.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

The restriction on emigration to the United States of America continues to bear adversely on the people of the Cayman Islands, who from the earliest days had been, because of their industry, sobriety, and general good behaviour, well received as dock and barge labourers, mechanics, and clerks in the seaports of the Gulf of Mexico. Emigration, save that of seamen who find deep-sea employment in the ports of the Gulf, is now restricted to small numbers who seek work in Honduras and other Central American republics. There is no immigration.

LEGISLATION.

Two laws only were enacted in 1928, both financial; one to validate certain special votes and small excesses of expenditure in 1927, and the other amending the Tariff Law with the object of securing in 1929 a small increase of Customs revenue.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure in 1928 are shown below in comparison with the previous five years, and the average :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
	£	£
1923 	6,611	6,823
1924 	6,005	7,013
1925 	6,970	6,622
1926 	7,320	7,437
1927 	6,148	7,651
Average of five years	6,611	7,109
1928 	5,909	7,679

Customs (£4,225) and Post Office (£919) together contributed 87 per cent. of the total revenue. Sales of stamps to collectors amounted to £340, as compared with £1,696, the average sales in previous ten years.

The expenditure may be summarised in Departments £3,691, Public Works £794, Education £1,500, and other services £1,694.

The writing off of certain losses by defalcations in 1913–18, and unexpected charges in the year under review, caused an excess of expenditure (£1,770) over revenue, and at the end of the year the Balance of Assets stood at £152. There is no public debt.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The total exports amounted to £13,439, of which all but £150 in value were of domestic produce, and compare favourably with the average for the previous five years, viz., £11,347.

The exports are mainly the products of the turtle fisheries, and of palm straw rope, a spare-time industry of women and children. The green-turtle fishery has a single market, Key West in Florida, where the catch is disposed of for but two-fifths the price it realises a week or ten days later in New York and other northern cities of America.

Recent enquiries as to phosphatic earth available in quantities have not yet resulted in shipments. Prospective borings for oil, which some years ago occasioned much local excitement, have not yet taken place.

The following table shows items and values of exports in five years :—

<i>Articles.</i>					1924.	1925:	1926.	1927.	1928.
					£	£	£	£	£
Honey ...	...	...	...	...	98	63	98	140	155
Turtle, live ...	...	...	...	...	3,750	6,000	5,000	5,400	4,825
Turtle skin ...	...	...	...	...	350	840	206	437	1,011
Turtle shell ...	...	...	...	...	4,749	5,533	4,160	5,132	5,295
Rope, straw ...	...	...	...	...	640	1,754	1,710	1,972	1,647
Unenumerated ...	...	...	...	...	249	165	270	277	506
Totals	...	...	...	...	£9,836	£14,355	£11,444	£13,358	£13,439

The catch of green turtle, returned as of merchantable size, was smaller than in 1927. The hawksbill fishers were also less successful than in 1927, the catch of shell weighing 4,450 lb., at an average value of £1 4s. 3d. per pound, as compared with 4,830 lb., and a lower rate of £1 1s. 3d. in the previous year.

The export of thatch-palm rope fell from £1,972 in value in 1927 to £1,647 in the year under review. This small industry provides an aid to livelihood to many who, being without a vigorous breadwinner, would otherwise be unable to maintain themselves.

The building of small wooden sailing vessels which are registered locally but frequently pass to other British ownership, or to foreigners, is an asset not capable of accurate estimate.

The destination of exports is shown in the following table; the turtle shell sold in Jamaica is, however, passed to the London market.

<i>Exports to</i>	<i>Food,</i>		<i>Raw</i>		<i>Manufactured</i>		<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Drink, etc.</i>		<i>Materials.</i>		<i>Articles.</i>			
	£		£		£		£	£
United Kingdom ...	—		720		—		—	720
Jamaica ...	272		5,714		1,782		27	7,795
United States ...	4,540		147		6		7	4,700
Other foreign ...	174		—		50		—	224
Totals	...	£4,986	...	£6,581	...	£1,838	£34	£13,439

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The imports reached a total of £38,793, or £3,232 less than the average of imports for the previous three years. The values of spirits imported and re-exported in 1923 and 1924 gave a fictitious lift to trade in those years. This trade has entirely ceased.

The countries of origin are so far as possible shown in the following tabulation, but it must be borne in mind that many articles imported from Jamaica are the products of the United Kingdom, and of other countries, chiefly the United States of America.

<i>Imports from</i>	<i>Food,</i>	<i>Raw</i>	<i>Manufactured</i>	<i>Miscellaneous.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Drink, etc.</i>	<i>Materials.</i>	<i>Articles.</i>		
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	537	—	1,552	160	2,249
Canada ...	999	—	—	9	1,008
Jamaica ...	8,855	309	2,696	462	12,322
United States ...	7,004	1,039	8,592	1,685	18,320
Other foreign ...	395	27	1,073	200	1,695
Parcels post...	—	—	—	3,199	3,199
Totals ...	£17,790	£1,375	£13,913	£5,715	£38,793

The excess of imports over exports is balanced by the remitted wages of seamen in every part of the world, the earnings of vessels owned in the Dependency but not worked in the turtle fishery, and the contributions to dependents here of men working ashore in the United States and in the ports of Central America.

Four cattle-dips were in operation during the months of tick activity, and material benefits in reduction of tick pest have accrued by their use.

BANKING FACILITIES.

There are no local banks or branches of foreign banks in the Dependency. Remittances are made from abroad by drafts on American banks and on branches of banks established in Jamaica, which are accepted by any of the shops and are used by them as remittances for the purchase of stocks of goods. The Post Office money-order system is used to some extent, the orders paid in the Dependency in 1928 amounting to £4,345, while the orders issued for payment abroad was more, viz., £6,882.

The depositors in the Government Savings Bank number 47; the deposits for the year have been £406, the withdrawals have amounted to £441, and the balance due to depositors stands at £1,242. Investments made some years ago, with the Crown Agents as trustees, total £1,000.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

In the past all intercourse with the neighbouring islands, the coasts of Central America, and the southern ports of the United States has been by trading schooners some of which in more recent years have had motor auxiliary. In the year 1927, however, a long-desired mail, passenger, and freight service by a specially built motor-vessel was established with Jamaica, consisting of 15 voyages per annum, with three voyages to a gulf port in the United States. This service was given uninterruptedly in 1928 and was well patronised.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Foreign mails are received through Jamaica and the Isle of Pines, Cuba ; and all outgoing vessels, to whatever port directed, are the bearers of mails. Tri-weekly mail services are maintained between the settlements on each island, and inter-communication is now frequent and regular by the operation of the Cayman Islands—Jamaica mail service. Boddentown, Georgetown, and West Bay, with three intermediate stations, are connected by telephone. The Dependency has no cable or wireless communication with the outside world.

SHIPPING.

Georgetown is a Port of Registry, having on its register 53 small sailing and 12 motor vessels, with a total tonnage of 3,367 tons. Five small vessels with a total tonnage of 101 tons were built and registered in 1928.

Five small steamships (2,318 tons) called at the islands in 1928. The following table shows the number and tonnage of the sailing vessels entered and cleared :—

<i>Nationality.</i>				<i>No. entered.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>No. cleared.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
British	...	...	...	200	14,908	212	14,159
American	...	...	...	2	28	3	42
Panamanian	...	...	...	2	86	2	86
Total				204	15,022	217	14,287

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Other than one case of murder there was no serious crime, though reports of predial larceny and other undetected petty offences are being made in increasing numbers. Fifty-nine persons were convicted in all classes of offences in 1928. Three persons were held in prison for safe custody and one person for punishment.

The Police Force consists of an Inspector and six constables ; but the duties of the latter are largely in connection with the transfer and delivery of country mails.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Under this head may be mentioned the completion, on the waterfront at Georgetown, of a Government warehouse through which, in future, all goods for the port or in transit must pass.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health of the Dependency is good. There were 189 births (36 per *mille*) and 58 deaths (11 per *mille*). Of the latter, ten were over 75 years of age, fifteen between 50 and 75, twelve between 25 and 50, four between 5 and 25, two between 1 and 5 years, and fifteen under one year. Five deaths were returned as caused by pulmonary tuberculosis and four by enteric. Malarial fevers are occasionally noted in persons who have resided for varying periods in the Central American Republics where this disease is endemic.

POPULATION.

The population at the census of 1921 was enumerated at 5,253. The numbers at the end of 1928 are estimated at 2,100 whites, or near whites, and 3,650 coloured and black, total 5,750.

METEOROLOGICAL.

Observations are taken in Georgetown only. The rainfall amounted to 41.87 inches, the lowest for many years and 25 inches below the average for the previous five years. The heaviest precipitation was in October (10.39 inches) and the largest single day's rain was on the 1st July (4.50 inches). With a smaller rainfall the mosquito plague was sensibly ameliorated in the summer months. The lack of moisture, however, adversely affected the crops of ground provisions, such as yams, sweet potatoes, and Indian corn, which were less productive than usual. The air temperature ranges from 70 to 80 in the months October to March, and ten degrees higher in summer. No cyclonic disturbances passed over the islands in 1928, and there was an entire absence of north-westerly gales.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Ten Government primary schools were in operation throughout the year. These, with eight private schools, had 1,081 pupils enrolled and an average daily attendance of 880. The total expenditure in the Government schools was £1,672. Forty-three candidates sat to the annual pupil teachers' examination set by the Jamaica Education Department, and twenty-three were successful.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

There has been no survey of the Dependency. The first settlers (*circa* 1740) were given conditional patents of a thousand acres, but all record of the localities has been lost. All land is now held by right of occupancy and without any grant of the Crown. The only areas recognised as remaining public are inaccessible or barren and valueless.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigrant labour and no local industry to attract it. Labour is entirely emigrant—as seamen to the Gulf Ports of the United States seeking employment in deep-sea voyages, as woodcutters and farm-hands in Honduras and Nicaragua, and, to a very small extent, as clerks or miners in the latter Republic.

H. H. HUTCHINGS,
Commissioner.

GRAND CAYMAN,
13th April, 1929.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
SITUATION AND AREA ...	2
HISTORY ...	4
PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE ...	8
CURRENCY ...	9
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ...	9
CLIMATE ...	9
I. GENERAL ...	10
II. FINANCE ...	12
III. PRODUCTION ...	14
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS ...	17
V. COMMUNICATIONS ...	19
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS ...	20
VII. PUBLIC WORKS ...	20
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH ...	21
IX. EDUCATION ...	22
X. LANDS ...	23
XI. LABOUR AND COST OF LIVING ...	24
XII. MISCELLANEOUS ...	24
MAP	

SITUATION AND AREA.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena lies in latitude 15.55 South and longitude 5.42 West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies from 14 to 17 days, and from Cape Town from five to six days.

The area of the Island is 47 square miles. The population is about 3,700, of whom about 1,500 live in Jamestown, the port and only town in the island.

St. Helena is of volcanic origin. The latest account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly of Harvard University, who visited the island at the end of 1921. This report appears in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* Vol. 62 No. 2, March, 1927. Professor Daly is of the opinion that St. Helena dates from pre-Glacial time, and is probably pre-Pliocene.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is forbidding. It rises abruptly in bare cliffs, which vary in height from 400 to 2,000 ft. The face of this wall of rock is cut by deep narrow gorges.

Above the cliffs the ground rises in a fairly regular slope, but with numerous valleys, to a ridge lying across the middle of the island. This ridge is serrated in form; its general altitude is about 2,000 feet, but two of its peaks, easily accessible and affording magnificent views, rise to 2,700 feet.

The island has been divided into three zones, "Coast," "Middle," and "Central."

The "Coast" zone extends from about a mile to a mile and a-half round the island. Except in some of the valleys, where fruit and vegetables may be grown, the only vegetation is prickly pear.

The "Middle" zone, at an altitude of 400 to 1,800 feet, succeeds the "Coast" zone. The hills and valleys and pleasing scenery in the higher levels of this area are suggestive of parts of Wales and Devon. Oaks, Scotch pines, gorse, and blackberries flourish there, and in 1926 at Plantation during a prolonged winter some primroses made their appearance.

The "Central" zone, about three miles long by two miles wide, is ground each side of the central ridge, the highest ground in the island. In some parts the ground is precipitous, in others undulating with grassy slopes.

Ascension.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7.53 South and longitude 14.18 West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles. The population consists of European and St. Helenian employees of the Eastern Cable Company and of the St. Helena Development Company. On the 31st of December, 1928, the population numbered 213.

The island is of volcanic origin, and, as in the case of St. Helena, the most recent account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly which appeared in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. 60, No. 1, June, 1925. Professor Daly observes that from the time of its discovery no sign of volcanic activity, not even a hot spring, has been reported though geologically the island is extremely young. He thinks it possible that the whole mass above sea-level has been erupted during post-Glacial time.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the island and affords pasture for a certain number of sheep and cattle.

HISTORY.

St. Helena.

There is an abundance of interesting historical and discriptive records concerning St. Helena. The archives of the Administration from 1678 are preserved at the Castle ; among them is the original of the instrument "The Laws and Constitution of the Island of St. Helena " issued by Charles II in 1681.

The island was discovered on 21st May, 1502, St. Helena's day, by Juan de Nova Castella, Commodore of a Portuguese squadron returning from India. The Portuguese made no attempt to make a colony of the island but were content to maintain it as a place of "refreshment" for their ships by planting fruit trees and vegetables and introducing goats, pigs, and wildfowl, including pheasants and partridges. It was the practice of the Portuguese to land on the island sick persons of a ship's company, "whom they suspect will not live till they get home ; these they leave to refresh themselves, and take away the year following, with the other fleet, if they live so long."

The discovery of the island is said to have been kept a secret until the Englishman, Captain Cavendish, returning from a voyage round the world, anchored there on 8th June, 1588. He found on the island a great abundance of fruit and vegetables, thousands of goats, a great store of swine and wild fowl (the pheasants "big and fat surpassing those which are in our country in bigness and numbers in a company"). He found also "divers handsome buildings and houses, one, particularly, was a church tiled, and whitened on the outside very fair." The only human inhabitants were three slaves and from them Captain Cavendish learnt the news that "the East Indian fleet all laden with spices and Callicut cloth, with store of treasure, and very rich stones and pearls, were gone but twenty days before we came hither."

St. Helena now became a place for "the English, Portugals, Spaniards, and Hollanders to refresh themselves in going, but, for the most part, in returning from the Indies, it being sufficient to furnish ships with provisions for their voyage, here being salt to preserve the meat from stinking ; and besides the air is so healthful that they often left their sick people there, who, in a short time, are restored to perfect health." "The greatest convenience of this island for ships" reported an English seaman "is the plenty and goodness of the water."

Eventually in 1645 the Dutch assumed possession of the island, but a few years later abandoned it to establish themselves at the Cape of Good Hope. Their place in St. Helena was taken by the English and in 1661 the Crown granted to the East India Company a charter for its administration.

According to some accounts the island was recaptured in 1665 by the Dutch, who were expelled the same year. They seized it again in 1672. The English Governor and his followers made their

escape in English and French ships to Brazil. There they met an English squadron under the command of Captain (afterwards Sir Richard) Munden, who determined to recover possession of the island. He arrived off St. Helena on the evening of 14th May, 1673, and was fortunate in finding that no look-out was being kept. He landed a shore party at Prosperous Bay, as it came to be called in commemoration of the exploit. There the most active man of the party climbed up a precipice, taking with him a ball of twine to which was attached a rope by means of which the rest of the party were hauled up. The cliff thereafter became known as "Holdfast Tom," the urgent admonition of his comrades to the intrepid climber. As the ships appeared off Jamestown the landing party reached the heights above the town and the Dutch surrendered without striking a blow.

St. Helena reverted by conquest to the possession of the Crown. In December of 1673 a new charter was granted to the East India Company and, with the exception of the term of Napoleon's exile, the island continued under the Company's administration until 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct control of the Crown.

The Colony is now administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council. The Governor alone makes ordinances, there being no legislative council, but power is reserved to legislate by Order of His Majesty in Council.

The East India Company, in the terms of their Charter of 1673, attached importance to the island as "very necessary and commodious for refreshing their servants and people in their retournes homewards, being often then weak and decayed in their health by reason of their long voyages under their hott clymes." This service the island continued to render during the period of the Company's administration. It had no possibilities as a trading station, and it remained purely a rendezvous for the protection and refreshment of shipping. The Governorship was often a reward for good service in India, and other offices were filled from time to time by the Company's servants whose health had suffered in the East.

With the disappearance of the Company's administration went its lavish expenditure and its high scale of salaries. The economy of Crown administration and consideration for the British taxpayer ushered in more difficult and less prosperous times for the inhabitants. The substitution of steam for sail and the opening of the Suez Canal meant the ruin of St. Helena as a shipping port. A century ago the number of ships calling each year was five hundred; to-day the number is forty, and in this era of cold storage supplies are rarely needed. More recently the removal of the garrison, in 1906-07, appeared at the time a crushing blow to the island. But the departure of the troops was not an unmixed evil, for it threw the island for the first time on its own resources and led to the creation of the fibre industry on which to-day the welfare of the inhabitants

has come greatly to depend. The future of St. Helena lies in its agriculture and in the character and technical training of its people; it is probable, also, that before long the scenery and the climatic advantages of the island may gain it a reputation as a resort for those who favour quietude and simple living.

St. Helena has become famous in history as the scene of the Emperor Napoleon's exile and death. The house occupied by him at Longwood and the site of the tomb in Sane Valley where his remains lay for twenty years till their removal in 1840 are now in the charge of the French Government, who were granted the freehold in 1858.

From its earliest days St. Helena appears to have been regarded as a place eminently suitable for exile or for the confinement of political prisoners.

The first exile to land on the island was Fernando Lopez in 1513. He was a Portuguese nobleman who had deserted his countrymen in India and turned apostate. Following on a Portuguese success near Goa he was surrendered to Albuquerque on condition that his life should be spared. His nose, his ears, his right hand, and the little finger of his left hand were cut off and he was thus placed on ship for Portugal. Rather than arrive in his country mutilated and disgraced he was at his own request left on shore at St. Helena with a few slaves. He remained on the island for four years, when on instructions from home he was removed to Portugal.

During the administration of the East India Company, St. Helena was selected for the confinement of an offending rajah who, however, did not survive the voyage. On two occasions Zulu rebels, amongst their number Dinizulu, Cetewayo's son, have been received on the island as political prisoners. During the South African War full advantage was taken of St. Helena's natural advantages as a place of internment. About 4,500 prisoners of war, among them General Kronje, were sent to the island. Their presence brought a wave of prosperity to the island, but apart from that happy circumstance the Boers soon gained and have retained the good will and respect of the inhabitants.

St. Helena had intimate associations with the suppression of the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas.

Slave ships captured by British warships were brought to the island for condemnation, and a settlement for freed slaves was founded at Rupert's Bay. A few found employment locally, but about 10,000 were conveyed to the West Indies and British Guiana.

From time to time St. Helena has had the good fortune to attract interesting and eminent visitors. In 1676 Halley, the astronomer, then a student at Oxford, arrived in the island to determine the positions of the fixed stars of the Southern Hemisphere, and left his name behind him in "Halley's Mount." His observations were to some extent, it is said, hampered by mist and cloud. The same fate about one hundred years later, in 1761, awaited the observations

of Dr. Maskelyne and Mr. Waddington, who visited the island to watch the transit of Venus on 6th June.

Captain Cook landed in the island in 1771 and again in 1774. He wrote that "the children and descendents of the English in St. Helena are remarkable for their ruddy complexion and robust constitution." "As for the genius and temper of these people," he observed, "they seemed to be the most hospitable ever met with of English extraction, having scarce any tincture of avarice and ambition."

Darwin arrived in St. Helena on 8th July, 1836. St. Helena, he was of opinion, had existed as an island from a very remote epoch. He remarked on "the English, or rather Welsh, character of the scenery": "When we consider that the number of plants now found on the island is 746, and out of these 52 alone are indigenous species, the rest having been imported, we see the reason of the British character of the vegetation."

In August, 1910, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught called at the island, while on his way to open the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa, and in August, 1925, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales spent two days at St. Helena on his way from South Africa to South America.

There still remains on the island one survivor of the Napoleonic period, the giant tortoise at Plantation, said by some authorities to be the known oldest living inhabitant of the world. One report states that this tortoise and a companion who died in 1918 were brought to St. Helena during the Governorship of General Beatson, 1808-13, and that they originally belonged to the French Artillery at Port Louis, being handed over to the British with the ordnance and stores at the capitulation of Mauritius in 1810. Mellis, writing in 1875, mentions a report that the tortoises had lived at Plantation for a century or more. When he wrote they appeared to be fully grown, easily carrying a man.

Ascension.

Ascension Island was discovered by the Portuguese on 20th May, 1501. It was given its name by Albuquerque who came there two years later.

Vessels called at the island for the turtles. "The sailors never weary of eating them," wrote Roggewein in 1773, "believing that they make a perfect change of their juices, freeing them entirely from the scurvy and other diseases of the blood."

But there was a less savoury reputation attaching to the place. "As the island is a very miserable place to live in, it is common to leave malefactors here when they do not incline to put them to death."

Ascension remained unoccupied until the British took possession in 1815, at the time Napoleon was brought to St. Helena. A garrison was established on the island; "their tents," wrote La

Trobe the following year, "are placed among heaps of volcanic matter resembling cinder heaps in the neighbourhood of London."

In 1821, marines formed the garrison. The spirit they brought with them appears in a private letter written from the island five years later. "We have everything in abundance and live like aldermen. The gardens which are about six miles off on the Green Mountain produce abundantly. The appearance of the island is certainly deplorable, a mass of black and brown lava ; but it has its comforts which are every day increasing."

Ascension remained under Admiralty control until 12th September, 1922, when its administration was taken over by the Colonial Office and it was made a Dependency of St. Helena.

At the present time Ascension is an important cable station, and it is also the scene of the operations of the St. Helena Colony Development Company, who are interested in the phosphates and minerals on the island. The Mess of the Cable Company have imported a spirit of cheerfulness into the surroundings. Various forms of recreation—cricket, football, golf, tennis, hockey, and bathing—are available. Sea fishing is a popular pastime and there are possibilities of big game fishing.

An interesting feature of the island is Wide-awake Fair, described by Captain Simmonds in the July number of the *National Geographical Magazine*, 1927. "Here is a wonderful city of birds at Wide-awake Fair, on the western corner of the clinker plains. We of the 'Blossom' went to the Fair on numerous occasions during the breeding season and found the birds assembled by the millions on flattened areas between the ragged cones. The eggs were in such close formation on the ground that it was difficult to step without treading on one or more. Upon our approach the birds rose in deafening chorus and hung over our heads in a threatening blanket of wings and sharp bills that darkened the sun. As a curtain of birds swung down with terrible chattering and screeching, we also ducked and huddled in anticipation of an attack." When the young are fledged the birds vanish from the island till the next breeding season. The eggs are considered a delicacy and taste not unlike plovers' eggs.

The constitution of Ascension is the same as that of St. Helena. The Governor and Council of St. Helena have the same powers in relation to Ascension that they possess in relation to St. Helena.

The Superintendent of the Cable Company acts as Resident Magistrate and has a seat on the Council. Officials of the Company perform such administrative duties as may be necessary.

PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE.

With the exception of the English residents and the descendants of English families, settled in the island, the inhabitants are of varied descent. Their ancestors generations ago came from different

parts of the world, but principally from Europe and Asia, and there is difficulty now in tracing any distinctive or prevailing racial element. They are of slight build and of pleasing appearance, they are very law-abiding and are generally praised for their civility and courtesy. In their ideas and sentiments they are essentially and intensely English—as English as is a great deal of the Island scenery.

The language spoken in St. Helena has always been English, and to-day it is remarkable for its purity.

CURRENCY.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the island of St. Helena.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

CLIMATE.

Situated far from any land mass, in the heart of the South-East Trades, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

There are four seasons in the year, which, however, are not so sharply differentiated as they are in England. Spring is from October to December, summer from January to March, autumn from April to June, winter from July to September.

The length of day varies from 13 hours on 21st December to 11 hours on 21st June.

The sun is vertical on 5th February and on 6th November.

The temperature in the "Coast" zone ranges in summer between 68 degrees and 84 degrees and in winter between 57 degrees and 70 degrees. In the country at about 2,000 feet it is 10 degrees cooler.

In Jamestown, during summer, the heat is sometimes apt to be oppressive. In the country, during winter, fires are often appreciated.

The atmosphere is humid; the monthly mean at 9 a.m. in the country varies from 89 degrees in January to 92 degrees in September.

The average annual rainfall in Jamestown is about 9 inches and the average number of raindays in the year is about 90. In the country at Plantation, 1,650 feet, the annual average of rainfall over 15 years is 38½ inches, and the average number of raindays 211. On

two occasions during the 15 years the greatest fall in 24 hours amounted to 2 inches ; apart from those two occasions the greatest fall did not exceed $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

At Plantation the driest months are September to January inclusive, when the average rainfall does not exceed 3 inches each month ; the lowest record being .15 and the highest 4.66, both in September. The wettest months are March, May, June, and July, when the average is between 4 and 5 inches ; the lowest record being 1.26 in March and the highest being 8.92 in July.

The average force of the wind, which blows almost every day in the year, is 14 miles per hour. On only one occasion in the last 30 years has the wind attained the velocity of 50 miles per hour.

Thunderstorms are of very rare occurrence, the last two recorded being in 1874 and 1888.

Earthquakes in the formidable sense are unknown. Only four " tremors " have been put on record in 400 years.

In the words of Mr. (now Sir Daniel) Morris, who in 1883 reported on the agricultural resources of the island, " St. Helena stands pre-eminent in possessing a remarkably fine and healthy climate. . . . In respect to its climate I regard St. Helena as a most valuable station for recruiting health."

The island is completely free from any of the ills associated with tropical or sub-tropical countries. In particular the climate seems an excellent one for young children or elderly persons. It is also considered beneficial for tubercular or lung trouble.

It is generally held that after three or four years a change of environment is desirable.

No particular precautions are needed. The sun very rarely causes any inconvenience, though on occasions during the summer in rare and exceptional seasons of prolonged drought the direct solar heat may be intense. In the last 25 years there has been only one case of fatal result from the effect of sun.

I.—GENERAL.

Two new appointments were made towards the end of the year, a Horticultural Officer from Kew and an Assistant to the Superintendent of Works.

In the past, St. Helena was famous for its fruit, its coffee, and its vegetables. In the days of the East India Company the apples, peaches, mulberries, quinces, were said " to have come to perfection." Some St. Helena coffee shipped to England in 1845 fetched 1*d.* per lb. more than any other description, and a sample sent to the London Exhibition in 1851 obtained the first prize for quality. In more recent years some consignments of potatoes were shipped to the Cape and a report on them from South Africa in 1906 stated " that there

is no doubt that the quality is excellent and that they will command the best figure in the market." It was the opinion, moreover, of Sir Daniel Morris in 1884 that by that date if Mr. Chalmers, who had been sent from Kew in 1869, had not been retrenched later tobacco would have become an established industry.

Since the departure of Mr. Chalmers the St. Helenians in horticultural matters have been left pathetically helpless for want of expert assistance, and horticulture has become derelict.

The appointment now made will, it is confidently anticipated, revive interest in horticulture and improve the position and increase the number of small holders. The limited area, however, available for cultivation makes it unlikely that any export trade on a considerable scale will arise. The market for the local produce will be in the island itself, in Ascension, and in occasional supplies to shipping.

Arrangements are under consideration for a short visit during next year of a Forestry Officer. No systematic forestry has ever been attempted in St. Helena and no report has yet been made by a Forestry Officer. Apart from their influence on climate and soil, trees are needed in St. Helena for fuel and to provide timber for building fencing, etc., and there is little doubt that a re-afforestation scheme launched under expert advice can provide St. Helena with all the timber, including ant-resistant timber, it will ordinarily require.

The law prohibiting the use of motors has been repealed and regulations for motor traffic are now under consideration. It is probable that only light cars and light lorries will be permitted. The new Assistant to the Superintendent of Works is a skilled motor mechanic, and his arrival synchronised with that of a small motor-roller and of a stone-crusher. With a modest programme of expenditure it is anticipated that within three years the island will possess, as regards surface at any rate, first-class roads. For a century the roads have borne wheeled traffic and there is good metal in abundance. In some parts the gradients are stiff and the width is narrow, but the volume of traffic will never be large enough to create difficulty.

Early in next year Mr. Bathgate, late Assistant Director of Works in Nigeria, is visiting the Colony to advise on public works generally, and in particular on a road programme, on water supplies and the possibility, on a very modest scale, of irrigation, to which the physical configuration of the island seems to lend itself.

The water in the island is reported to be excellent, and it is hoped that provision can be made for improving the supplies in the country and for meeting a possible increase in the demand for shipping.

The possibility of obtaining the assistance of a teacher in Domestic Science, seconded for two years from the English Education Department, is under discussion. St. Helena girls when trained make good cooks and domestic servants. Opportunities for their employment offer in Ascension, in South Africa, and occasionally in England. There is little fear that if well trained there will be difficulty in finding them employment.

For the first time in the history of the island a tourist steamer, an American "luxury liner," called at Jamestown at the beginning of the year. The visit was most successful and as a result three tourist steamers are announced as visiting the island next year. In the opinion of some of the more enthusiastic passengers the visit should extend two or three days instead of a few hours, for there is much of interest to see in the island. The lack of an hotel is, however, becoming a serious want.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £15,549, being £454 below the estimate and £2,437 below the revenue for 1927. The sum of £1,000, payable into revenue at the end of the year as minimum royalty by the St. Helena Colony Development Company in connection with their operations at Ascension, was not received in time to be included in the 1927 accounts and there were arrears also of £130 under "Lands," which were paid shortly after the end of the year. There was a decrease of £3,092 in Post Office receipts as compared with 1927, arising from a reduction in the demands of stamp dealers.

The principal items of revenue were :—

	£
Customs...	4,864
Taxes ...	580
Fines, Fees, etc.	1,501
Post Office ...	2,651
Lands ...	998
Investments ...	427
Miscellaneous ...	438
Ascension ...	3,536

Under "Fines and Fees" £1,170 is re-imbursements, being payments for work done by the Admiralty. Court Fines amounted to £7 5s. 0d. only.

Under "Miscellaneous" is included the sum of £237 refunded by the St. Helena Development Company of the salary of the Controller of Labour at Ascension.

The principal items of expenditure were :—

	£
Pensions...	816
Governor ...	1,136
Secretariat ...	1,217
Medical and Sanitary ...	3,107
Education ...	794
Agriculture and Forests ...	645
Miscellaneous ...	835
Public Works Department ...	899
Public Works Recurrent ...	2,938
Extraordinary ...	2,412
Ascension ...	2,406

Under "Miscellaneous" the sum of £364 is included for depreciation of stores. A large quantity of useless stores, accumulated for some years, has been written off.

Under "Extraordinary" the expenditure for repairs to Government buildings, chiefly Government House, was £1,773, and for road machinery £463.

There were surplus funds at the beginning of 1928 amounting approximately to £5,500. A grant-in-aid of £2,000 was approved by the Treasury, but was not received until the year of account had closed.

The revenue (including grant-in-aid) for the past five years is :—

			<i>including</i>		
			<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Grant-in-Aid</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
			<i>of</i>		
			£	£	£
1924	...	...	16,727	4,000	14,182
1925	...	...	21,731	7,000	19,566
1926	...	...	23,945	2,500	23,154
1927	...	...	20,486	2,500	16,740
1928	...	...	15,549	—	19,671

A statement of what may be fairly regarded as the ordinary recurrent revenue and expenditure for those years is as follows :—

					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£	£
1924	...	...	...	...	12,727	13,643
1925	...	...	...	...	12,537	14,758
1926	...	...	...	...	13,522	15,224
1927	...	...	...	...	16,600	15,940
1928	...	...	...	...	14,162	15,794

In the year 1927 the sum of £5,600 was taken by the Post Office for the sale of stamps.

It appears that the Colony needs an annual grant-in-aid of about £2,000 to balance the ordinary recurrent budget.

Assets and Liabilities.—The statement of assets and liabilities shows an excess of assets over liabilities amounting to £4,195.

Public Debt.—There is no public debt.

Banking.—The Government Savings Bank is the only bank established in the island.

The total number of depositors during 1928 was 234, as compared with 246 in 1927. The total deposits amounted to £3,641, being £407 decrease in the deposits for the previous year.

Stock to the value of £11,698 (cost price) is held by Government on behalf of depositors. It is proposed to increase these investments by £1,000.

The amount due to depositors on 31st December, 1928, was £16,099

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture and Industries.

The welfare of St. Helena is bound up with the cultivation of the land. This was the opinion of Sir Daniel Morris in 1884, "I look entirely to the soil," he wrote, "for the elements to bring prosperity to St. Helena." The same opinion was expressed nearly 40 years later in a lecture given in Jamestown by Professor Daly of Havard, who had visited St. Helena to study its geology. Mr. Mason, who came from South Africa in 1922 to report on the island's agriculture, came to the conclusion that St. Helena "was a country for the smallholder."

The only industry of importance at the present time is the cultivation of *phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) and the manufacture of fibre and tow from its leaves.

This plant does not appear in Dr. Roxburgh's list of plants seen by him on the island in 1813-1814. His list, however, does not profess to be complete as his bad state of health during his residence prevented him from compiling a full catalogue.

The first reference so far discoverable is in Mellis' *St. Helena*, 1875, " . . . New Zealand flax with other fibre producing plants all now grow wild, and bear evidence to the very small attention that has been paid by the inhabitants to the soil and its productions, in the fact that none are made use of "; and again, "New Zealand flax ; grows wild and is common about the highlands. Hitherto the only use made of this plant has been by the market gardeners for tying up bunches of vegetables, etc ; and, although the value of the plant for the fibre it yields has long attracted attention, it is only recently that its cultivation has been undertaken with this object in view. During the last year or so a very considerable extent of land has been planted with it."

Flax first appears in the agricultural returns for 1873, when 100 acres were said to be given over to its cultivation. In the following year machinery was set up for the extraction of fibre from aloe and from *phormium tenax*, and from 1875 to 1881 there were exports of fibre from both plants, the highest returns being 100 tons and 83 tons in 1879 and 1880 respectively. Prices then fell, and after 1881 the export ceased.

Sir Daniel Morris in his report of 1883 wrote : "I commend the subject of the extraction of fibre from the New Zealand flax to the careful attention of proprietors in the island . . . obtaining some return from the hundreds of tons of the material now growing uselessly on such extensive tracts in the island." He obtained a report on a sample of New Zealand flax treated by a machine erected by Mr. Deason, "this fibre," the report said, "would be fairly saleable in large quantities."

In the Colonial Report for 1889 in referring to the production of fibre it was explained that the difficulties of obtaining an adequate supply of water and of proper machinery had still to be overcome.

It was not till 1904-5 that serious attention was again given to the production of fibre, when proposals in connection with the matter were mooted from South Africa and England. It was pointed out, however, that any extension of the cultivation of New Zealand flax meant the breaking up of grass and pasture land, and that the preservation of such land was necessary for raising stock for the meat supply of the garrison.

The withdrawal of the garrison in 1906-7 altered the whole situation. In June, 1906, a deputation consisting of Messrs. H. B. Morrice, H. J. Bovell, and H. W. Solomon interviewed the Secretary of State for the Colonies and urged the establishment of a Government flax mill in the island. With the assistance of a grant-in-aid, flax planting was encouraged, an expert was obtained from New Zealand, and the Government mill was opened in 1907. In 1913 Solomon and Co. opened their first mill, followed three years later by Deason Brothers, and in 1923 W. A. Thorpe and Sons also began milling operations. In 1925 the St. Helena Corporation acquired a lease of the Government mill.

At the present time, therefore, there are four firms engaged in fibre production, and there are eleven stripping and scrutching machines operating. There are about 300 people employed in connection with the mills.

The area under the cultivation of *phormium tenax* is estimated at approximately 2,000 acres. The cultivation is suitable for the smallholders and is taken up by them, but by far the greater proportion of the acreage is the property of the millowners themselves.

The export of fibre and tow during the past five years has been in tons :—

			<i>Fibre.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Tow.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
				£		£
1924 ...	...	...	694	27,076	284	7,113
1925 ...	...	...	923	33,022	420	10,953
1926 ...	...	...	751	25,531	417	10,851
1927 ...	...	...	738	24,542	365	7,963
1928 ...	...	...	770	22,515	380	6,933

The prices during the year were disappointing, averaging £30 per ton for fibre and £19 10s. for tow. At times it was difficult to find buyers and stocks had to remain in the warehouse paying rent.

Mr. Mason in his report (1922) discussed the flax industry. He observed that the war with its enormously inflated prices had given a stimulus to flax planting, that it had been established in suitable and unsuitable places and many of the latter when prices become normal would be likely to go out of cultivation ; that the high prices had led to the planting of ground which under normal conditions would yield much better returns if devoted to the production of

ordinary agricultural crops. He was of opinion that owing to the ease with which money could be made slackness had crept in all round and that a general tightening up of business methods would be necessary if the industry was not to go through a critical stage. He considered that the greatest cause for uneasiness was the general practice of milling leaves too young, and that no time should be lost by the interested parties in putting their house in order. So far as the mills were concerned it would be necessary to study costs and the most economical way of producing fibre. In most cases, he observed, flax did not receive much attention from the time it was planted until it was ready for cutting. A greater yield he thought would result if it was kept free from weeds, especially in the early stages. He strongly recommended some system of grading. On this point Sir Henry Galway had been equally emphatic in the Colonial Report for 1908, "When the flax industry develops to any extent, say in three years' time, it will be imperative for the success of the industry that the Colony has its own grader, and so allow for all the produce exported being graded before shipment. If this is not done it is more than likely that the different mills will send home varying qualities of fibre, and so tend to give the St. Helena article a bad name in the London market."

These questions call for much closer co-operation amongst mill-owners than is apparent at the present time.

For the past few years an attempt has been made by Captain Mainwaring to establish the manufacture of rope and twine out of the local fibre. The export for the last four years has been :—

					<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i> £
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	32	1,500
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	35 $\frac{1}{2}$ ₆	2,105
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	18	810
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,246

The successful development of such an enterprise would be of the greatest benefit to the island.

Farming.—The year was a bad one for the farmers owing to drought, the rainfall in the country being 23 inches as compared with an average of 38.5.

Fisheries.—At one time an attempt was made to start a fish-curing industry in the island, but the project failed. It is thought that supplies of fish are not more than sufficient for local needs.

Lace-making.—This industry was started in St. Helena in 1897 by Mrs. Jackson, a resident in the island. She had been impressed with its possibility as an industry for women and girls from the success which had attended a similar enterprise in Madagascar. In 1907 the Imperial Treasury gave a grant to assist and develop the industry, and an Association was formed under the presidency of the Bishop with a committee of ladies to assist in the management.

The Association dissolved the following year and the industry passed into Government control. A Government lace school was established and Miss Girdwood was appointed Manageress. She soon came to the opinion that the talent of the St. Helenian was strongly in favour of the needle rather than the pillow. Reports on the work of the school were encouraging and it was considered worth while to adopt old Italian patterns and to aim at production of a high quality. It was stated in 1914 that the laces were of excellent quality and workmanship, were chiefly of Florentine and old Italian designs, and that but for the outbreak of war the school would have shown a substantial profit. In 1916 Miss Girdwood was compelled on account of ill-health to resign her appointment; the school then closed and has not since been re-opened. Messrs. Solomon and Co. have opened a depot in town where the lace can now be purchased, but the St. Helena lace finds difficulty in competing with machine-made lace and with work of cheaper quality.

Ascension.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The average number of turtles annually exported during the past five years is 37. In former years the export was on a considerable scale, 750 turtles being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850, and 650 in 1853.

Investigations are being made into the possibilities of exploiting the minerals and the phosphates on the island. It is possible also that a fish-curing industry may soon be successfully established, for fish appear to abound in the waters of the island.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total value of the overseas trade of the Colony in 1928 amounted to £80,307 as compared with £83,952 in 1927.

The Customs revenue amounted to £4,863 as against £5,011 in 1927, the difference being due mainly to the fact that in 1927 two years' supply of paraffin had been imported.

Imports.

The value of imports during the year was £49,030, distributed as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	39,735
South Africa	7,595
Foreign countries	1,700
	£49,030

The imports from South Africa and foreign countries are food, drink, and tobacco.

The principal differences as compared with 1927 were :—

Increases—						£
Coal and Coke	...	...	...	...	...	305
Earthenware and Glassware	...	...	...	...	...	323
Drapery and Dry Goods	...	...	...	...	...	1,796
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	1,475
Hardware Metal, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	232
Machinery	...	...	...	...	...	605
Stationery	...	...	...	...	...	302
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	296

Decreases—

						£
Butter and Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	235
Foodstuffs (unenumerated)	...	...	...	...	...	1,135
Paraffin Oil	...	...	...	...	...	1,187
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	890
Timber	...	...	...	...	...	529
Wine	...	...	...	...	...	270

Government imports in 1928 were valued at £2,713, excluding munitions of war, as against £1,827 in 1927.

Exports.

The value of exports in 1928 was £31,267, as against £34,274 in 1927, distributed as follows :—

						£
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	29,321
South Africa	...	...	...	...	...	1,946

The exports to the United Kingdom and South Africa are classified as follows :—

						<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>South Africa.</i>
						£	£
Raw material	...	...	...	...	...	28,691	1,330
Manufactured articles	...	...	...	...	...	630	616

The principal differences in value as compared with 1927 are :—

Increases—						£
Rope and Twine	...	...	...	...	...	436
Hides	...	...	...	...	...	148
Decreases—						
Fibre	...	...	...	...	...	2,027
Tow	...	...	...	...	...	1,030
Specie	...	...	...	...	...	391

The quantities of fibre and tow exported in 1928 were 770 tons and 380 tons respectively, as compared with 738 tons and 365 tons in 1927. The value of fibre and tow had fallen considerably in 1928.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The number of ships calling at St. Helena and Ascension during the year was 35, as compared with 39 in 1927.

The ships were classified as follows :—

Mail steamers	...	...	...	25
British warship	...	...	...	1
Other vessels	...	...	...	9

The tonnage entered and cleared was 132,315, as compared with 143,131 in 1927.

The only steamship line calling regularly at St. Helena and Ascension is the Union-Castle Line, which carries mails outward and homeward once a month.

Roads.

There are about 60 miles of road to be maintained in St. Helena, and the expenditure on this service in 1928 was £803 16s. 2d.

During the year, the Ordinance prohibiting motor traffic was repealed and at the end of the year a motor-roller and a stone-crusher were imported.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

Postal communication is monthly between St. Helena and England and between St. Helena and South Africa.

There has been a slight general decrease during 1928 in the business of the Post Office as compared with 1927.

The statistics are :—

From England—				1927	1928
No. of bags Mail	...	...	...	228	224
Parcels	...	...	...	1,697	1,448
Registered Articles	...	...	...	1,133	928
Money and Postal Orders	...	...	...	£1,736	£1,578
To England—					
No. of bags Mail	...	...	...	73	66
Parcels	...	...	...	165	123
Registered Articles	...	...	...	2,049	1,783
Money and Postal Orders	...	...	...	£6,362	£6,039
From South Africa—					
No. of bags Mail	...	...	...	15	12
Parcels	...	...	...	428	408
Registered Articles	...	...	...	497	449
Money and Postal Orders	...	...	...	£324	£420
To South Africa—					
No. of bags Mail	...	...	...	19	14
Parcels	...	...	...	142	142
Registered Articles	...	...	...	511	451
Money and Postal Orders	...	...	...	£1,546	£1,463

The Eastern Telegraph Company have cable stations at St. Helena and Ascension, where messages are accepted for all parts of the world.

There is no internal post or telegraph service.

A telephone system is maintained by private subscribers, the rate per instrument being £5 per annum.

The number of instruments is 33 ; there are 41 miles of wire. The revenue during 1928 was £178 against an expenditure of £139.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

There was one case before the Supreme Court, a case of wounding which resulted in a conviction and a sentence of nine months' imprisonment.

The number of cases reported to the Police was 152. In 86 cases action was taken in the Court, resulting in 38 convictions and one committal to the Supreme Court.

Of these convictions, thirteen were for offences against Ordinances relating to the social economy of the island, nine for offences against the person, six were for larceny, and the others were for minor offences.

During the year, there were four whippings in the case of boys convicted for stealing.

There were fourteen cases in the Small Debts Court.

Gaol.

The number of persons committed to prison during the year was ten, and one was placed on remand. The number in custody on 31st December, 1928, was three.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department embarked during the year on an extensive programme of repairs to Government buildings, estimated to cost £8,600. The programme comprises the re-construction of Plantation (Government House), and extensive repairs to the Castle and the Hospital. The programme will be carried out with local labour, and for the woodwork American cypress has been imported, as it has a local reputation for being ant-resistant.

A start has been made with Plantation which, owing to the depredations of white ants, had become too ruinous and dangerous for further occupation. It was handed over to the Department at the end of March when the Governor went on leave. Until its restoration is carried through the Governor will reside at Prince's Lodge, a bungalow in the neighbourhood.

Current Repairs, etc.—Unanticipated expenditure to the amount of £150 became necessary in the course of the year ; £90 for the

construction of a buttress wall in Rupert's Valley to protect buildings there from the dangers of erosion, and £60 for the completion of the repairs to the Nurses' and Probationers' Quarters.

Roads.—A motor-roller and a stone-crusher arrived at the end of the year, and when they are in full commission it is hoped that there will be considerable improvement in the condition of the roads and considerable saving in the cost of maintenance.

Water.—Special attention was given to the Longwood and Hospital supplies, and the demands of shipping were met without serious difficulty.

Transport.—The drought made it necessary to purchase additional supplies of forage for the animals. In a short time it is proposed to introduce mechanical transport.

At the end of the year an Assistant Superintendent of Works arrived who is a trained motor mechanic.

Horticulture.

The agricultural and horticultural duties hitherto assigned to the Superintendent of Works were taken over by the Horticultural Officer who arrived in November.

The "Scotland" estate of about ten acres was purchased for Botanical Gardens.

Before the year closed, a start was made with the restoration of the Town Gardens, which for years have been left derelict.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated civil population of St. Helena on the 31st December, 1928, was 3,797, as against 3,754 on the same date in the previous year.

The deaths in St. Helena during the year numbered 69, as against 63 in 1927, the death-rate being 18.17 per 1,000 as against 16.78 in 1927. The death-rate for the past ten years has averaged 11.42 per 1,000.

The deaths in 1928 according to age were—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Between 1—10 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
" 10—30	"	...	...	...	...	...	7
" 30—60	"	...	...	...	...	...	6
" 70—80	"	...	...	...	...	.....	12
Over 80	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

There were 123 births, as against 99 in 1927, giving a birth-rate of 32.39 per thousand against 26.55 in 1927.

There were 31 marriages, as compared with 36 in 1927.

In Ascension the population was 213, of whom 137 are St. Helenians. There were no deaths and there was one birth.

Health.

During the year there was a mild epidemic of whooping cough and a few cases of chicken pox.

Cases of water-borne disease, *ascaris*, have been found at Level Wood, one of the country districts. While the water supply of Jamestown is satisfactory, there are certain country districts where improvement is desirable and possible.

The Dentist has visited all the schools. He has made 1,543 extractions of temporary teeth and 579 extractions of permanent teeth. He considers the teeth of the children have suffered from lack of attention and from a soft dietary.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are eight primary schools on the island. Three are government schools, three are maintained by the Hussey Charity, one by the Benevolent Society, and one by the Bishop's Diocesan Fund. These schools provide for 680 children.

A Government grant of £100 is given to the Hussey Charity Schools, of £20 to the Benevolent Society School, and of £15 to the Diocesan Fund School.

There is a carpentry class in the Government boys' school; and school gardens, under the supervision of the Horticultural Officer, will shortly be started.

There is no secondary or technical education. As regards the latter, the extensive programme of public works and the establishment of a Horticultural Department will provide some opportunities for training boys. In the case of girls it is proposed if funds are available to open a school for domestic economy under the management of a trained teacher.

Church Lads' Brigade.—In the country there is a company of the Church Lads' Brigade consisting of 54, all ranks, and 26 training corps.

Boy Scouts.—In Jamestown there is a troop of Boy Scouts consisting of a scoutmaster, two assistant scoutmasters, six patrols of eight boys each, and a small pack of six wolf cubs.

During the year a camp was held, the expenses being met from a concert given by the Scouts.

Girl Guides.—There is a Town company consisting of sixty Guides and Brownies, and a Country company of forty-three Guides and Brownies. With officers and Rangers the Guides number about 150.

X.—LANDS.

Sir Daniel Morris estimated the area of St. Helena to be 28,000 acres, "Of this area probably 20,000 acres or more than two-thirds are composed of barren rocky wastes or clayey slopes totally unfit in their present condition for any agricultural operations." More recent estimates give the area of agricultural and pastoral lands as 10,000 acres.

The multiplicity of records and the diversity of titles introduce some degree of confusion into the tenure of land in the island.

Among the terms in the early days of the East India Company under which land was granted to "the planters, their heirs, and assignees for ever" was the condition "An Englishman to be kept on every ten acres, and to take his turn to appear in arms on guard." Appearance on guard, watch and ward, as it was termed, was commuted as early as 1683 for a payment of 2*s.* an acre, subsequently reduced to 1*s.* an acre. As regards the maintenance of an Englishman on every ten acres, the Court of Directors sent instructions in 1717 "not to enforce too rigorously" this condition.

The lands which bore this charge of 1*s.* an acre became known as "free" lands.

The Company also granted leases. In 1828 the Court conveyed to the Governor their approval of the conversion of leaseholds into permanent tenure, "We are . . . prepared to sanction the grant to such of the parties now holding temporary leases as may by their management of the property and the buildings they have erected have proved themselves worthy of the boon of a permanent title to the lands, with a reservation, however, of our right in each case, when the public service may demand it, to resume possession of the land upon the payment of its valuation, to be assessed by a jury, providing also that a quit rent varying from 3*s.* per acre to 6*d.* per acre to be in like manner assessed."

These lands became known locally as "permanent tenure" land.

Lastly, under a Proclamation dated the 7th of August, 1843, the Government gave notice that it would commute the ground rents of the several tenures into rent-free grants at 10 or 12½ years rental according to the nature of the tenure. A considerable number of grantees took advantage of this offer. It does not appear that the right of Government to resume for public purposes was made a condition in this scheme of commutation.

There is still a considerable area of Government land on lease, and during recent years a number of small plots have been granted to smallholders, originally for growing flax. In the past five years a hundred leases have been granted.

The number of properties on the Government rent roll amounts to 427, and the rents yield an annual revenue of £1,284.

It is difficult to arrive at the market value of land owing to the paucity of transactions, but from £7 10*s.* to £10 an acre would not be an unreasonable price for cultivated land.

The only legislation dealing with land is Ordinance No. 1 of 1893, to simplify conveyancing and titles to land and to provide for registration.

XI.—LABOUR AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled or semi-skilled workmen are from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* per day, wages for unskilled labour vary from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day as compared with 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* at the end of 1913. Women are paid 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day.

The day for men is from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and for women from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A week for men is 60 hours.

The Government pay unskilled labour at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* a day of eight hours, and the week is 45 hours.

In domestic service wages for housemaids vary from 10*s.* to £2 per month, for cooks from 30*s.* to £4 per month, and for male servants from 30*s.* to £4 15*s.* per month. Grooms and gardeners receive 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

Insurance against sickness and death and for funeral expenses has been for many years a feature in the social economy of the island. There are four Friendly Societies for men, with a total membership of 1,660. Two of these Societies have been established for nearly one hundred years. There is a Friendly Society for women, with a membership of 230, established in 1878.

The cost of the principal articles of consumption during the year under review was as follows :—

Meat 1*s.* per lb.

Fish cheap and good.

Eggs 2*s.* per dozen.

Butter Fresh 2*s.* 6*d.*, tinned 1*s.* 8*d.* and 2*s.* 6*d.*

Bread 5*d.* per 1½ lb. loaf.

Milk 4*d.* per bottle.

Tea 3*s.* per lb.

Coffee 1*s.* 6*d.*—2*s.* 6*d.*

Sugar 3½*d.* per lb.

Rice 3½*d.* per lb.

Tobacco 11*s.* per lb.

Whiskey 6*s.* 9*d.*—8*s.* 9*d.* per bottle.

Kerosene 15*s.*—22*s.* per case.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meteorology.

At Hutt's Gate, 1,900 ft., where the principal observations are taken, the rainfall for the year was 25.28 inches, the lowest recorded for many years. The average yearly rainfall is 40 inches. The heaviest fall was 1.2 on 19th March. In Jamestown at sea-level the rainfall for the year was 7.001, and the heaviest fall was .049 on 26th March.

Upper air observations by means of pilot balloons were taken during the year at Hutt's Gate on behalf of the Air Ministry. Their object was to determine the nature of the winds overlying the Trades.

During the year there was no electrical disturbances visible to the naked eye.

At Ascension the rainfall at Green Mountain, about 1,900 ft., was 35.24 inches, and at Georgetown, sea-level, 3 inches.

Legislation.

Seven Ordinances, two Proclamations, and four Orders in Council were issued during the year.

The principal Ordinances were :—

No. I.—The Immigration (St. Helena) Ordinance, controlling immigration into St. Helena and giving powers of deportation.

No. V.—The Fisheries and Fish Products (Export) Ordinance, to provide for the taking and curing of fish for export, and the manufacture for export of fish products.

No. VII.—The Motor Car Ordinance, for the regulation of the use of motor-cars.

Staff.

It is proposed to amalgamate the four offices of Law Officer, etc., Chief Clerk, Treasurer, and Collector of Customs into two appointments, that of Government Secretary holding a seat on the Council, who will carry out the duties of Law Officer, etc., and Chief Clerk, and that of Treasurer who will perform the functions of Treasurer and Collector of Customs.

To the latter office Mr. Cullen, Collector of Customs, was appointed from 28th September.

The number of Nursing Sisters at the Hospital has been reduced from four to two, and three St. Helena girls are in training as Probationers.

Two new appointments were created during the year. Mr. Bruins-Lich from Kew Gardens was appointed as Horticultural Officer, and Mr. Withecombe was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Works.

Mr. Bruce retired as Postmaster and was succeeded by Mr. G. Moss, formerly Comptroller of Customs of Northern Rhodesia.

Dr. Cartwright was succeeded as Colonial Surgeon by Dr. Carleton.

Mr. Pink the Treasurer was transferred to St. Lucia. Miss Scott, Nursing Sister, resigned.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

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Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.]

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.]

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COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies.

[Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

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ST. LUCIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY	2
CLIMATE	4
VITAL STATISTICS	5
LANGUAGES	5
CURRENCY	5
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	5
I.—GENERAL	5
II.—FINANCE	6
III.—PRODUCTION	7
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS	10
V.—COMMUNICATIONS	13
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	14
VII.—PUBLIC HEALTH	15
VIII.—EDUCATION	16
IX.—LABOUR	16
X.—MISCELLANEOUS	17
MAP	

Geography and History.

The island of St. Lucia is situated in latitude 13° 54' North and longitude 60° 59' West, at a distance of 24 miles to the south-east of Martinique and 21 miles to the north-east of St. Vincent.

It is 27 miles in length and 14 at its greatest breadth ; its circumference is 150 miles and its area 233 square miles, rather less than Middlesex.

Castries, the capital, is situated at the north-western end of the island, and has a population, according to the census of the 24th April, 1921, of 5,899.

The port of Castries is one of the best harbours in the West Indies. It is land-locked and provides facilities for coaling and watering ships and for loading and discharging cargo which are unequalled in these islands.

The town of next importance is Soufriere, which lies about 12 miles to the south of Castries and contains a population of 2,480. Just below Soufriere Bay stand the remarkable twin peaks known as "The Pitons," rising sheer from the sea to a height of 2,619 feet in the case of the Gros Piton and to 2,461 feet in that of the Petit Piton. The boiling sulphur springs from which Soufriere gets its name are situate at Ventine, two and a-half miles south-east of the town.

It is generally accepted that St. Lucia was discovered by Columbus, during his fourth voyage, on the 18th June, 1502. There is, however, a tradition amongst the French that it was discovered on the 13th December of a later year by some shipwrecked French seamen, who named it St. Alouziel or St. Alousie after the martyred virgin saint of that name, whose feast is commemorated on that date.

The island was then inhabited by the Caribs, and they remained in undisturbed possession for another century.

In 1605, 67 persons proceeding to Guiana by the English ship *Olive Blossom* were forced by famine to land in the island, and they remained "to take their fortune in the fruitful isle." They were not able to stay longer than a month, however, when, reduced to 19 by wars with the Caribs, they left in an open boat and reached the mainland of South America in sore distress. This is the first recorded instance of a landing by Englishmen in the island.

In 1626 a Commission was granted by Cardinal Richelieu to MM. d'Enambuc and du Rossay to establish a French Colony "in the islands of St. Christopher and Barbados and in the surrounding territories," which presumably included St. Lucia, and in 1627 the island was granted by the King of England, along with all the Caribbee Islands, to the Earl of Carlisle, who appointed Lord Willoughby of Parham to be Governor of Barbados and the other Caribbee Islands. In 1635 it appears to have been granted by the King of France to MM. de l'Olive and Duplessis.

In 1638 Captain Judlee of St. Kitts (acting in the name of Lord Willoughby) and three or four hundred men took possession of the island and attempted to effect a settlement in it, but in 1640 these early colonists were either massacred or expelled by the Caribs.

In 1642 the King of France, still claiming a right of sovereignty over the island, ceded it to the French West India Company, who sold it in 1650 to MM. Honel and du Parquet for the equivalent of £1,600. The Caribs made repeated attempts to expel the French, but failed, and finally, in 1660, they concluded a treaty of peace with the latter.

In 1663 Thomas Warner, the natural son of the Governor of St. Christopher, made a descent on St. Lucia and took possession of it. The English continued in occupation until the Peace of Breda, in 1667, when the island was restored to the French. In 1674 it was re-annexed to the Crown of France and made a dependency of Martinique.

Throughout the eighteenth century recurrent struggles took place between the English and the French for possession of the island, the more important occurring in the latter half of the century. In 1762 it surrendered to the joint operations of Admiral Rodney and General Monckton, but was returned to France by the Treaty of Paris in the following year. In 1778 it again surrendered to the British, who remained in occupation until 1783 when, by the Peace of Versailles, St. Lucia was once more restored to France. It was from Pigeon Island, off the north-western coast of St. Lucia, during the period of this occupancy that Rodney sighted the French Fleet of 36 sail of the line, under the Comte de Grasse, prior to giving them battle and defeating them in the memorable naval action of the 12th April, 1782. The island was again taken by the British in 1794, but they were forced by the French Republican party in the island, aided by insurgent slaves under "Citoyen" Victor Hughes, the Civil Commissary of Guadeloupe, to evacuate it in the following year. In 1796, after an obstinate and sanguinary struggle, that party laid down their arms and surrendered as prisoners of war to a force 12,000 strong under the command of Sir Ralph Abercrombie supported by a squadron under the command of Sir Hugh Christian. Sir John Moore, the subsequent hero of Corunna, took part in this operation as Brigadier-General Moore, and remained in the island as Governor thereafter. The British retained possession of the island until 1802, when it was restored to France by the Treaty of Amiens; but on the renewal of hostilities it surrendered by capitulation to General Greenfield on the 22nd June, 1803, since when it has continued under British rule. As a result of the operations of 1778, 1796, and 1803, no fewer than thirteen British regiments have "St. Lucia" inscribed on their colours.

Climate.

The climate is healthy and compares favourably with other West Indian islands.

The temperature seldom rises above 90° in the hot season, May to November, or falls below 70° in the cool season, December to May; the yearly average being about 83° noon shade temperature. On Morne Fortune, just above Government House, where a portion of the former garrison was located, the temperature in the winter months falls as low as 60° , and throughout the year it remains mild and pleasant.

Temperature records during 1928 at the Botanic Gardens, Castries, show a mean noon temperature of 84.4° in the shade; the maximum temperature was 92° , the minimum temperature was 63° , the temperature range being 29° .

The total rainfall at the Botanic Gardens, Castries, for the year 1928 was 106.25 inches. This was 16.32 inches above the average for the last 38 years (89.93) and was the highest rainfall recorded since the year 1916. Maximum precipitation occurred on 7th August with a rainfall of 3.96 inches.

Vital Statistics.

On 31st December, 1927, the resident population of the Colony was computed to have been 56,068—males, 25,747 ; females, 30,321. On 31st December, 1928, the figure increased to 56,917—males, 26,393 ; females, 30,524. The natural increase during the year was 767. Arrivals in the Colony exceeded the number of persons leaving the Colony by 82, making a total increase of 849.

The general increase in population from the 1921 Census (51,505) is estimated at 5,412—males, 2,887 ; females, 2,525—and the average figures for the seven years show a slight annual increase of the male population as compared with the female, of 51.

The births (including still-births which numbered 123) totalled 2,016—males, 1,065 ; females, 951. The birth-rate (excluding still-births) was 33.2 per thousand of the population.

The number of deaths recorded (including still-births) was 1,249—males, 608 ; females, 641. The death-rate (excluding still-births) was 19.8 per thousand of the population.

The principal causes of death returned (excluding still-births) were—malaria, 53 ; pulmonary tuberculosis, 42 ; phthisis, 23 ; syphilis, 57 ; diseases of the heart, 43 ; bronchitis, 41 ; pneumonia, 50 ; gastro-enteritis, 92 ; worms, 116 ; infantile debility, 56 ; senile decay, 115.

Languages.

English is, of course, the language of the Colony, but the large majority of the population speak a French patois. Notwithstanding the fact that primary education is imparted in English entirely, it is still true that, in the elementary schools, most of the children have to be taught English before they can assimilate a knowledge of the rudiments of education. This is undoubtedly a very unsatisfactory state of affairs, but it can only be by persistent educational effort that the people as a whole will eventually learn to speak and think in the national language.

Currency.

The coinage of Great Britain is the currency of the Colony, while local Government currency notes of the value of 10s. and 5s. are in circulation, as well as the notes of Barclays Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada, both of which have branches in Castries.

Weights and Measures.

The Imperial weights and measures are in use in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

An outstanding event of the year was the inauguration of the new Canadian Steamship Service which has been the result of the Canada-West Indies Conference held at Ottawa in 1925. The first of the steamers, the *Lady Nelson*, arrived at Castries on the 23rd December

with an official party from Canada and received a hearty welcome from the inhabitants of the Colony. High hopes are entertained of an increasing prosperity to the Island as the result of the establishment of this greatly improved means of communication with Canada and it cannot be doubted that these hopes will be realised.

An election of Members to serve on the Legislative Council of the Colony was held on the 4th April, 1928, when the following gentlemen were elected to represent the several constituencies :—

For the Northern District ... Mr. L. T. Augier McVane.
 „ Eastern „ ... Mr. George Palmer.
 „ Western „ ... Mr. H. E. Belmar.

Messrs. G. Laffitte, M.B.E., Gregor McG. Peter, and T. G. Westall were appointed Nominated Members of the Council. The new Council was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor on the 26th April.

During the year tours were made by the Administrator through the agricultural districts of the Island and steps were taken to form a Co-operative Fruit Growers' Association at Soufriere. Several experimental shipments of fruit have been made under the auspices of this association and in many cases good results were obtained. It is hoped that much good will result from the marketing of fruit on co-operative lines and that these principles will be adopted gradually in regard to other articles of agricultural produce.

In June the Colony received a visit from Professor H. Clark Powell, B.Sc., who was deputed by the Empire Marketing Board to visit several Colonies to investigate the possibilities of an increased cultivation of grape fruit. Professor Clark Powell's visit was greatly appreciated and resulted in a large importation of grape fruit plants from Florida. His excellent report on his visit has been of great assistance to planters in the Island.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure of the Colony during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.			Ordinary Revenue. £	Ordinary Expenditure. £	Excess of Expenditure over Revenue. £
1924	...	...	71,595	88,186	16,591
1925	...	...	75,555	85,082	9,527
1926	...	...	83,379*	84,488	1,109
1927	...	...	82,491†	84,219	1,728
1928	...	...	85,351‡	87,235	1,884

* In addition £70,180 was received as proceeds of the issue of a Debt Reduction Loan.

† Includes Imperial Grant-in-Aid of £7,000.

‡ Includes Imperial Grant-in-Aid of £3,836.

Taxation was increased during 1928 by :—

- (1) The Stamp Duty Amendment Ordinance.
- (2) The Customs Amendment (No. 2) Ordinance, increasing the surtax on Customs Duties from $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 25 per cent.
- (3) The Insurance Licence Ordinance, imposing a licence at the annual rate of £5 in respect of Insurance businesses carried on in the Colony.

The Public Debt of the Colony (including Guaranteed Loans) stood at £199,459 at the close of the year, being £3,700 less than at 31st December, 1927. The accumulated Sinking Fund for its redemption amounted to £62,673, as compared with £58,717 at the end of 1927.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

Owing to the decline in the coal trade the future prosperity of the Colony is more than ever dependent on agriculture, and the somewhat increased activity shown by the inhabitants is evidence that the position is being realised.

Interest in agriculture has also been stimulated by the present trade relations with Canada and the advantage of a direct line of steamers providing special accommodation for fruit and vegetables. Although a fruit and vegetable trade is only now beginning, the outlook is encouraging and favourable.

In May, a new agricultural station was established on a suitable Government estate near Castries. Special attention has been given to the propagation of fruit trees of the best known varieties and these are being distributed through the country. St. Lucia possesses great possibilities as a fruit-producing country and there seems little doubt that this industry will develop very considerably in the near future.

The lime industry although somewhat handicapped by “Wither-tip” disease, has been helped by favourable markets and is still being profitably carried on.

The coconut industry is being gradually extended and the output is steadily increasing. The groves generally are in good condition.

Sugar.—Four factories still continue to operate in the Colony and the area under cultivation remains at about 4,750 acres, although the cane land around one factory is being gradually planted in coconuts.

The year was a difficult one for sugar producers, the weather being unusually wet ; the rainfall recorded was 16 inches above the average for the last 38 years.

The price of sugar showed no improvement, and the output of the factories was low.

The following figures show the quantity and value of sugar products exported during the last 5 years :—

Sugar (Vacuum Pan).

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						Cwt.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	71,760	87,987
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	97,772	72,559
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	95,140	65,444
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	88,640	74,200
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	82,000	63,050

Sugar (Muscovado).

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						Cwt.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	9,940	9,508
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	8,614	4,774
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	9,138	5,414
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	3,560	2,235
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

Molasses and Syrup.

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						Gals.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	159,589	12,323
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	153,413	7,818
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	156,424	8,659
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	156,050	7,634
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	85,784	3,643

Rum.—The quantity and value of rum exported during the last five years is as shown below :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						P. Gals.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	95 $\frac{3}{4}$	29
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	63	25
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	37	11
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,700	212
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,323	218

Practically all the rum produced in the island is consumed locally.

Cacao.—The cacao market was fairly steady, and growers gave more attention to their plantations. The average quality of beans produced was an improvement on that of five years ago. Owing to extended wet weather the crop was short, showing a reduction of 1,176 cwt. on the previous crop.

The quantity and value of cacao exported during the last five years are as follows :—

Year.						Quantity.	Value.
						Cwt.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	12,163	21,267
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	10,444	22,339
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	10,037	22,454
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	12,183	30,560
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	11,006	27,321

Limes.—Due to the presence of “Wither-tip” the output was little more than half of that of the previous year, but the high prices of lime oils which continued throughout the year considerably enhanced the market value.

The quotations for concentrated lime juice increased from £20 to £25 per pipe c.i.f., handpressed lime oil from 38s. to 62s. per lb., and distilled lime oil from 25s. to 33s. per lb.

Calculated in barrels of green limes the crops for the last five years are :—

Year.					Quantity.
					Barrels.
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	52,238
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	63,406
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	59,415
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	58,948
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	30,107

Coconuts and coconut products exported during the last five years are shown in the following statements :—

Coconuts.

Year.					Quantity.	Value.
					Number.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	199,669	204
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	123,516	432
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	118,501	381
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	96,813	351
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	141,667	499

Coconut Oil.

Year.					Quantity.	Value.
					Gals.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	Information not available.	
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	6,323	791
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	19,081	3,847
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	3,921	735
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	931	184

Copra.						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
<i>Year.</i>						Cwt.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,806	2,199
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,981	3,563
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,591	1,808
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,077	4,409
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	6,301	8,690

Coconut Meal.						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
<i>Year.</i>						Tons.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	Information not available.	
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	12	106
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	42	778
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	88
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	38

Bananas.—The exports during the last five years were as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						Bunches.	£
1924 ...	...	...	...	...	...	4,190	256
1925 ...	...	...	...	...	...	20,818	1,374
1926 ...	...	...	...	...	...	46,209	4,356
1927 ...	...	...	...	...	...	27,052	2,351
1928 ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,543	338

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The state of the trade of the Colony as reflected by the values and quantities of imports and exports during the year 1928 as compared with 1927 was as follows :—

Imports.				1928.	1927.
				£	£
I. Food, drink, and tobacco ...	...	...	...	80,669	78,679
II. Raw material and articles mainly unmanufactured.				46,418	39,512
III. Materials wholly or mainly manufactured.				105,703	103,640
IV. Miscellaneous and unclassified articles including Parcel Post.				9,263	7,014
Total value ...				£ 242,053	£ 228,845

The above table shows increases over the previous year in every class of imports, class IV being highest with 32 per cent.

The values of imports for 1928 and 1927, classified according to country of supply, were as follows :—

	1928.	1927.
	£	£
United Kingdom	92,756	67,910
Other parts of the British Empire ...	67,297	62,647
Foreign Countries... ..	73,959	91,713
Parcel Post	8,041	6,575
	£242,053	£228,845

The effect of preference in the above figures is very clear, for while imports from the United Kingdom have increased by £24,846 or 36.58 per cent. and from the other parts of the British Empire by £4,650 or 7.42 per cent. those from foreign countries have decreased by £17,754 or 19.36 per cent.

The values of imports of articles amounting to £5,000 or more for 1927 and 1928 were as follows :—

<i>Article.</i>	1927.	1928.
	£	£
Boots and Shoes	5,635	7,518
Coal, bituminous	28,407	25,229
Cotton—		
Piece goods	19,225	10,930
Other manufactures	5,366	13,904
Fish, salted, dried, etc.	9,596	9,394
Grain, etc., Flour	24,411	25,367
Machinery, sugar manufacturing ...	4,073	10,519
Oil, edible	7,169	6,274

Coal, the chief item, is seen from the above figures to have declined by £3,178 or 11.19 per cent. On the other hand, sugar manufacturing machinery increased by no less than £6,446 or 158 per cent., which is gratifying evidence of an effort to develop further this important industry. The recent serious fall in the price of sugar is most unfortunate and disheartening for the planters who were doing all in their power to increase the efficiency of their factories.

There would appear to be some openings for British products, as shown by the following table :—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Total value of Imports in 1928.</i>	<i>Imports from British Empire.</i>
	£	£
Cotton manufactures, piece goods	10,930	7,489
Manures	2,625	1,210
Iron and Steel manufactures ...	3,188	610
Wood and Timber—Shooks and Staves.	1,220	32
Bags and Sacks, empty	4,223	3,642
Butter and substitutes	3,811	1,638
Oleomargarine	2,152	117
Motor-cars... ..	3,507	2,785
Cement	4,192	1,448
Totals	£35,848	£18,971

Exports.

The values of exports in 1928, classified under four main divisions, were as follows :—

	1928.	1927.
	£	£
I. Food, drink and tobacco	108,567	134,348
II. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	49,505	47,391
III. Articles wholly or mainly manufac- tured.	31,836	27,208
IV. Miscellaneous	730	371
V. Bullion and Specie	7,198	4,284
Total value	£197,836	£213,602

The above shows a decrease during 1928 in class I only, due mainly to a falling off in the exports of sugar, molasses, concentrated lime juice, and cocoa.

The following table shows the character and individual values of the main exports :—

	<i>Value in 1928.</i>	<i>Value in 1927.</i>
	£	£
Cocoa	27,321	30,560
Lime and Lime products... ..	29,687	27,337
Sugar	63,050	76,435
Fancy syrup and Molasses	3,643	7,634
Logwood	2,338	2,027
Bunker Coal	35,411	37,663
Copra	8,690	4,409

The values of the exports, domestic and other, classified according to destination, were as follows :—

EXPORTS (MERCHANDISE).

<i>Destination.</i>	<i>Total</i> 1928. £	<i>Total</i> 1927. £
United Kingdom—	£	
Domestic Exports	56,419	
Re-exports (not including Bul- lion and Specie).	110	
	56,529	37,898
Other parts of the British Empire—		
Domestic Exports	58,473	
Re-exports (not including Bul- lion and Specie).	4,426	
	62,899	92,625
Foreign Countries—		
Domestic Exports	34,828	
Re-exports (not including Bul- lion and Specie).	416	
	35,244	40,777
Ships' Stores—Re-exports ...	555	
Bunkers—Re-exports	35,411	
	35,966	38,018
Totals	£190,638	£209,318

Coaling.—The coaling business, for which there are exceptional facilities ensuring the quickest despatch, and which had for many years been a source of considerable wealth to the Colony, has fallen off greatly with the reduction in the number of steamers calling for bunkers. It still, however, affords an appreciable amount of irregular employment to a number of labourers living in the capital and its vicinity.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.—The number of ships entered and cleared during the year was 1,057, of a total tonnage of 1,222,306 tons. Of this total 533 were steam and 524 sailing vessels.

Mail communication is maintained by (1) a regular fortnightly steamer service to other West Indian Colonies and to Canada, (2) a monthly service via Martinique to Europe by means of the French mail steamer, and (3) a monthly service to the United States of America and the West Indian Colonies by the Quebec Steamship Company. There are other frequent mail opportunities via Barbados and America and direct to Europe.

Roads.—The road system of the island was further improved during the year. Three sections of main road, aggregating $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles, were thoroughly reconstructed and surfaced with oil. Other sections were widened, regraded and diverted to facilitate increased motor traffic.

The mileage of roads in the Colony is as follows :—

Main roads	...	...	...	...	125
By-ways	...	...	...	...	144
Unclassified roads	...	...	...	...	74
					343

167 miles are suitable for motor traffic.

Passenger subsidised motor-bus services were regularly maintained between Castries and Dennery and Vieuxfort and Soufriere.

The Government 50 ton motor-launch supplied a regular service between Castries, Soufriere, Vieuxfort, and the villages of Anse-la-Raye, Canaries, and Laborie.

Telegraphic communication is maintained by the Pacific Cable Board ; there is also the West India and Panama Telegraph Company, Limited, the latter no longer subsidised by the Government.

Inland Telegraphs.—There is no telegraph system in the island.

Telephones.—The telephone system is operated entirely by the Government and consists of 110 miles of trunk lines and 204 miles of branch lines, ten exchanges and 210 subscribers.

A thorough reconstruction of rural lines was effected during the year and new switchboards installed at Castries, Soufriere, and Dennery.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice is administered by the Royal Court, over which the Chief Justice presides, and by three District Courts, over which two Magistrates preside. The Royal Court has an original civil and criminal jurisdiction and also decides appeals from the Districts Courts. Appeals from the Royal Court are heard and determined by the West Indian Court of Appeal constituted under the West Indian Court of Appeal Act, 1919, of the Imperial Parliament.

An adequate Police Force is maintained to enforce the decisions of these bodies and to provide generally for the peace of the Colony and the security of life and property. Besides ordinary Police duties, this Force assists in the administration of Poor Relief, and it has, since the Castries Fire of May, 1927, provided the main portion of the Castries Fire Brigade.

There is one gaol, the Royal Gaol, situated in Castries, which contains separate prisons for male and female convicts. The institution has its own bakery which supplies excellent bread to all the public institutions and, in addition to stone-breaking and carrying out useful work outside the walls, certain of the prisoners are taught carpentry, tailoring, and shoemaking.

VII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the Colony during 1928 was fair, the only epidemic occurring being a small outbreak of para-typhoid fever in the isolated village of Canaries. The incidence of malaria was the lowest recorded since 1922.

The Medical Department consists of a Chief Medical Officer who is also Resident Surgeon of the Victoria Hospital, Castries, and six District Medical Officers as well as a Sanitary Department. The Department maintains a Port Health Officer, a suitably equipped Quarantine Station, and Pauper, Leper, and Lunatic Asylums.

The Victoria Hospital, the principal hospital, is situated one mile outside of Castries and there are three small Casualty Hospitals situated in Soufriere, Vieuxfort, and Dennery, the three towns next in importance to Castries. The Victoria Hospital was during 1928 re-modelled and brought up to modern standards, particular attention being paid to sanitation. There is a Resident Surgeon in charge and he is assisted by a staff consisting of a European Matron and local nurses and dispensers. There is a private wing with six rooms assigned to paying patients.

Sanitation and Hygiene.—Established routine work was carried out throughout the year. This included the regular periodical inspection of all inhabited areas, houses, estates, barracks, and school-houses; inspection of markets, slaughter-houses, bakeries, provision shops, mineral water factories, and ice factory. Particular attention was paid to the scavenging and cleaning of towns and villages and to the disposal of excreta and of refuse throughout the Colony.

Anti-malarial measures included general work of reclamation, swamp clearing, particularly a large area of swamp land in Vieuxfort, the restocking of pools with "millions" fish, the clearing of ravines, regular attention to the banks of rivers and streams which were overgrown with weeds, the keeping open of lagoons and river mouths, the proper covering of all receptacles for holding water and general instruction, especially to the poorer classes of the community, in the prevention of mosquitoes. Quinine for prophylaxis was available.

The town of Vieuxfort was granted the boon of a pipe-borne water supply.

The Bakeries Regulations which had never previously been enforced were brought into operation and this is resulting in cleaner methods in the making and handling of bread.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.—There are 49 primary schools, which are all denominational, assisted by Government Grants in Aid. Forty-two of these are Roman Catholic, four Anglican, and three Wesleyan. The teachers' salaries are almost wholly paid from the Grants in Aid, which total nearly £5,000 per annum, the religious denominations contributing less than £50 per annum towards the sum required for that purpose. The grants are administered by an Inspector of Schools, a Government Officer who exercises general supervision and direction of them, subject to the ultimate control of the Governor-in-Council. Primary education is free and compulsory between the ages of 4 and 14 years, but it is probable that not more than 60 per cent. of the children between those ages attend school.

Instruction is provided in reading, writing, dictation, arithmetic, English recitation, and hygiene. In the lower standards English is also taught by means of object lessons, while the upper standards take English composition, English grammar, and geography. Instruction in elementary agricultural science for boys, both theoretical and practical, and in domestic economy for girls, including practical cooking, is also given. Many of the schools have good gardens, the care of which provides the pupils with practical work in agricultural science. The results obtained are on the whole good.

Secondary Education.—A secondary course for boys is provided by St. Mary's College, and for girls by St. Joseph's Convent School. The course at St. Mary's College now includes agricultural science. These schools prepare their pupils for the Cambridge University Local and London University Matriculation Examinations with considerable success. The St. Lucia Scholarship of the value of £175 per annum is awarded by the Government biennially, on the results of the London University Matriculation Examination, to candidates having the requisite residential, educational, and other qualifications. A choice of universities, or of agricultural, scientific, or technical colleges, or institutions, in Europe, Canada, or the United States, approved by the Governor-in-Council, is permitted. The scholarship is tenable for not less than three and not more than five years, according to the time required for the completion of the course of study sanctioned. At the end of 1927 seven scholarships had been awarded.

Eighteen scholarships at St. Mary's College are awarded by the Government to boys attending primary schools, on the results of competitive examinations. These scholarships are tenable for one year and are then renewable from year to year for five years more.

IX.—LABOUR.

There is, generally, an ample supply of labour for the requirements of the Colony. Employment is offered chiefly on sugar estates and other of the larger properties, by the Public Works Department for

work on the roads, and by the coaling companies for bunkering steamers. There is a steady demand for tradesmen, but the supply is limited. So far as can be ascertained the relations between employers and labourers have been satisfactory. A fair number of St. Lucia labourers are recruited periodically for work in Cuba and Santo Domingo. All arrangements in regard to this labour are made through the Government, and the recruiting agents are required to enter into a strict bond and agreement for carrying out the terms of the contract made between them and the labourers.

X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

His Excellency the Governor of the Windward Islands, Sir Frederick Seton James, K.B.E., C.M.G., was in residence in the Colony from 26th January to 1st May.

Mr. C. W. Doorly, the newly appointed administrator, arrived in the Colony on the 26th February and was sworn in the next day.

Mr. C. A. Pickwood left the Colony on the 20th March after having acted as Administrator and Colonial Secretary for four months. Mr. Pickwood rendered most valuable service during the short period he was in the Colony, especially in the direction of clarifying the financial situation.

A sitting of the West Indian Appeal Court was held at Castries on the 21st August.

The following British ships of war visited the colony during the year :—

H.M.S. *Colombo* in March.

H.M.S. *Cairo* in April.

H.M.S. *Heliotrope* in January, March, and April.

CHAS. W. DOORLY,

Administrator.

St. Lucia,

18th *May*, 1929.

61° 0'

ST. LUCIA CHANNEL

West Indies
St. Lucia

Reduced from Chart of the Survey
of the Island by Lt. Arthur Havergal, R.N.
H.M.S. Sparrowhawk,
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No. 1434.

ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1928.

*(For Reports for 1926 and 1927 see Nos. 1346 and 1397 respectively
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ZANZIBAR PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY	2
LANGUAGES	3
CURRENCY	3
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	3
 I.—GENERAL	 4
II.—FINANCE	5
III.—PRODUCTION	6
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS	7
V.—COMMUNICATIONS	9
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	11
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS	12
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH	13
IX.—EDUCATION	14
X.—LANDS AND SURVEY	15
XI.—LABOUR	15
XII.—MISCELLANEOUS	15
SKETCH MAPS OF ZANZIBAR AND PEMBA.	

History and Geography.

The Island of Zanzibar is situated in 6° S. latitude and is separated from the mainland by a channel 22½ miles across at its narrowest part. It is 53 miles long by 24 broad (maximum measurements), and has an area of 640 square miles.

To the north-east, at a distance of 25 miles, lies the Island of Pemba, in 5° S. latitude. It is smaller than Zanzibar, being 42 miles long by about 14 broad (maximum measurements), and has an area of 380 square miles.

In the year 1890 the supremacy of British interests in the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba was recognized by France and Germany, and the Islands were declared a British Protectorate in accordance with conventions by which Great Britain waived all claims to Madagascar in favour of France and ceded Heligoland to Germany.

In 1891 a regular Government was constituted with a British Representative as First Minister. In 1906 the Imperial Government assumed more direct control over the Protectorate and reorganized the Government. In 1911 Seyyid Ali abdicated the throne and was succeeded by the present ruler, Seyyid Khalifa bin Harub, K.C.M.G.,

K.B.E. On the 1st July, 1913, the control of the Protectorate was transferred from the Foreign Office to the Colonial Office, legal effect being given to the change of administration in the following year when the Protectorate Council and the Offices of High Commissioner, British Resident, and Chief Secretary were established. In 1925 the Office of High Commissioner was abolished. In 1926, Executive and Legislative Councils were constituted.

Languages.

The principal languages employed are English, Arabic, Swahili, Gujarati and Kutchi.

Currency.

The silver rupee of British India of the standard weight and fineness enacted in the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, is the standard coin of the Protectorate. The exchange value of the rupee was in 1927 fixed by the Government of India at 1s. 6d. gold. All other silver coins of British India, of the standard weight and fineness enacted in the same Act, are legal tender for the payment of an amount not exceeding Rs.5. Local copper pice are legal tender, at the rate of 64 pice to one rupee, for the payment of an amount not exceeding one rupee. There is a Government note issue of the denominations Re.1, Rs.5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures used are those obtaining in Great Britain, together with the following native ones :—

	<i>Weights.</i>	<i>lb.</i>
Frasila : For produce generally	... ..	35
Gisla :		
For grain	... ..	360
For native salt	... ..	600
For groundnuts in husks	... ..	180
For groundnuts without husks	... ..	285
Tola : For gold and silver : equal to the weight of one rupee.	40 tolas = 1 lb.	

Measures.

Pishi or Keila : Equal to $6\frac{1}{2}$ lb. avoirdupois weight of fresh water or 6 lb. of rice.

Kibaba : Equal to 26 oz. avoirdupois weight of fresh water or $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of rice : subdivided into $\frac{1}{2}$ kibaba and $\frac{1}{4}$ kibaba.

I.—GENERAL.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales paid an unofficial visit to Zanzibar on the 30th November, arriving from Dar es salaam at about 3 p.m. and leaving again for Dar es salaam just before midnight. His Royal Highness proceeded at once to the British Residency and subsequently called on His Highness the Sultan. During the afternoon His Royal Highness visited the Museum and made a tour of the bazaar.

The Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies in Eastern and Central Africa arrived in Zanzibar on the 8th March and left for Beira on the 11th March. The Commission took evidence from Heads of Departments and from representatives of the Arab Association, the Indian National Association, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Commission's Report had not been published by the end of the year.*

Important measures affecting the clove industry and the incidence of taxation were brought into operation during the year. In July a cash *ad valorem* duty on cloves, collected immediately prior to shipment, was substituted for the duty in kind. At the same time the rate of duty was reduced from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. and the system of the payment of a bonus to plantation owners by way of rebate of duty was abolished. In August, with the object of retaining an important market for Zanzibar cloves, the Government brought into effect a system of drawbacks of duty in respect of cloves used in the manufacture of clove oil vanillin.

In January Mr. V. H. Kirkham, Director of Agriculture, visited Madagascar and obtained valuable first-hand information regarding the progress of clove production and various economic factors connected with the clove industry in that country.

The construction of the new wharf in the Malindi quarter of Zanzibar town progressed rapidly during the year. As early as April certain of the cargo-handling facilities of the wharf were brought into use, and before the end of the year constructional work was so far advanced as to allow diversion to the wharf of all steamer cargo for discharge and loading. The main wharf is 800 feet in length and has a decking area of 42,000 square feet suitable at all states of the tide for mooring lighters and berthing vessels of a draught not exceeding 20 feet; it is equipped with one 5-ton and four 30-cwt. electric cranes and is served by two transit sheds each with a floor area of 31,500 square feet and by an open stacking ground with an area of 57,000 square feet. Other facilities which have been, or will shortly be, provided include a quay for cargo from native vessels equipped with two cranes and served by a transit shed with an area of 9,000 square feet, a quay and large stacking area for coal, a produce depot, and commodious warehouses for goods in bond and for leasing to the public.

* The Report was published in January, 1929 (Cmd. 3234).

The completion of the wharf will enable the port of Zanzibar to handle the foreign trade of the Protectorate and coastal traffic with a maximum of efficiency and economy.

Satisfactory progress was made during the year in carrying out the Government's policy of road construction. Particulars are given under the section "Communications."

During the month of Ramadhan (March) a serious faction fight took place in the town between Muscat Arabs and Hadramout Arabs. The ringleaders were arrested and deported, and no further trouble was experienced.

Sir Thomas Tomlinson, Chief Justice, left Zanzibar, prior to retirement, in June. Mr. G. H. Pickering was appointed Chief Justice and assumed his duties in November.

Sir Claud Hollis, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., British Resident, proceeded on leave in September. During his absence Mr. R. H. Crofton, Chief Secretary, acted as British Resident, and Mr. J. T. Gilbert, Assistant Chief Secretary, as Chief Secretary.

II.—FINANCE.

(i) Revenue and Expenditure.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Protectorate for the last five years :—

					<i>Revenue.</i> £000s.	<i>Expenditure.</i> £000s.
1924	...	...	...	...	493	452
1925	...	...	...	...	578	543
1926	...	...	...	...	449	650
1927	...	...	...	...	540	606
1928	...	...	...	...	471	598

(ii) Taxation.

In July a cash *ad valorem* duty on cloves was substituted for the duty in kind and the rate of duty was at the same time reduced from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. Stamp duties were levied for the first time (Decrees No. 25 of 1927 and No. 2 of 1928).

(iii) Assets and Liabilities.

		<i>Thousands.</i> £
Balance of assets on 31st December, 1927	...	451
Deficit, 1928	...	127
Balance of assets on 31st December, 1928	...	324
Loan to Kenya Colony and Protectorate	...	200

(iv) Public Debt.

The public debt amounts to £100,000 in 3 per cent. debentures, which were issued to the British public in 1899 under authority of the Loan Decree, 1899, and which are repayable in 1931. The extinction of the debt is fully covered by a Sinking Fund which was provided for by annual contributions from general revenues. These contributions were discontinued by virtue of a Decree enacted in August, 1927, and the amount at the credit of the fund on the 31st December, 1928, was £102,578, which is invested mainly in Colonial Government Securities.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Cloves.—Owing to the collection of duty in cash instead of in kind it is no longer possible to give an accurate figure for production. The seasonal crop 1928–29 was extremely small, and it is estimated that production during 1928 did not exceed 250,000 frasilas (a frasila equals 35 lb.).

The figures for the quantity and value of cloves exported for the last five years are as follows :—

					<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
					1,000s.	£000s.
1924	...	...	...	...	8.5	810
1925	...	...	...	...	10.9	885
1926	...	...	...	...	7.9	572
1927	...	...	...	...	12.9	820
1928	...	...	...	...	7.9	651

The year was marked by a sharp rise in prices, the range being from Rs.11 to Rs.29 per frasila (duty-paid).

The bonus paid on bearing clove trees was Rs.4,84,000 as compared with Rs.4,56,000 in 1927. This bonus, being regarded as a rebate on the previous season's crop, was paid in full. On the alteration of the clove duty from 25 per cent. in kind to an *ad valorem* cash duty of 20 per cent., this rebate was discontinued.

The bonus paid on young trees amounted to Rs.1,20,000, as compared with Rs.47,000 in 1927. The increase was due to the decision to discontinue this bonus on new plantings, and to compound for outstanding commitments, which would normally have extended over several years.

Copra.—The export of domestic copra fell further to 9,350 tons.

The figures for quantity and value of domestic exports for the last five years are as follows :—

					<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.*</i>
					1,000s.	£000s.
1924	...	...	...	...	10.2	239
1925	...	...	...	...	12.5	276
1926	...	...	...	...	12.8	281
1927	...	...	...	...	10.0	242
1928	...	...	...	...	9.4	235

* Owing to inadvertence the figures given under "Value" in previous Reports were for the value of total exports of copra, i.e., of domestic copra plus re-exports of foreign copra.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Imports and Exports.

During 1928, the foreign trade of the Protectorate amounted to 113,000 tons, valued at Rs.4,30,12,324, being a decrease of 13.1 per cent. in weight, and a decrease of 10.4 per cent. in value, as compared with the previous year.

The total imports (including goods directly transhipped, bullion and specie, and goods imported on Government account) amounted in value to Rs.2,11,36,783, and weighed 68,000 tons, this being a decrease of 10.5 per cent. in value and a decrease of 19.1 per cent. in weight as compared with 1927.

The total exports (including transshipment goods, bullion and specie, and re-exports) amounted to 45,000 tons weight, valued at Rs.2,18,75,741, being a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in weight and a decrease of 10.3 per cent. in value as compared with 1927.

Balance of Trade.

The appended figures show the balance of trade in merchandise for the year under review :—

	<i>Rs. (Lakhs).</i>			
Export of Domestic Merchandise	...	...	...	129
Re-exports of Foreign Merchandise	...	...	...	90
Total Trade Exports	...	...	...	219
Total Imports of Merchandise	...	...	...	206
Less Government Imports	...	...	...	8
Total Trade Imports	...	...	...	198
Favourable Balance of Trade in Merchandise ...	...	...	...	21

The following table shows the balance of trade as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports during the quinquennial period 1924–1928 :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Excess of Exports over Imports.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>
	<i>Rs. 000s.</i>	<i>Rs. 000s.</i>	<i>Rs. 000s.</i>	
1924*	2,91,11	2,61,19	+ 29,92	+ 11.45
1925*	2,86,89	2,72,70	+ 14,18	+ 5.20
1926*	2,37,12	2,44,65	— 7,53	— 3.07
1927*	2,43,51	2,35,92	+ 7,59	+ 3.22
1928	2,18,62	2,06,26	+ 12,36	+ 6.00

* Figures for 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927 are exclusive of silver specie.

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

<i>Countries.</i>	<i>Imports therefrom.</i>	<i>Exports thereto.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Trade.</i>	
	<i>Rs. 000s.</i>	<i>Rs. 000s.</i>		<i>1927.</i>	<i>1928.</i>
India and Burma ...	60,71	39,94	1,00,65	24·33	23·40
United Kingdom ...	40,78	11,80	52,58	12·42	12·23
Tanganyika Territory ...	28,43	39,63	68,06	14·82	15·82
France ...	1,49	16,61	18,10	8·13	4·21
United States of America	12,42	14,70	27,12	5·65	6·30
Kenya Colony ...	5,41	4,56	9,97	3·12	2·32
Italian East Africa ...	4,24	5,31	9,55	1·52	2·22
Germany ...	3,28	3,54	6,82	2·67	1·59
Italy ...	1,22	34,45	35,67	3·06	8·29
Netherlands East Indies...	16,19	17,45	33,64	6·12	7·82
Japan ...	10,28	60	10,88	2·84	2·53

The value of cloves exported to principal countries in 1927 and 1928 was as follows :—

	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>British India.</i>	<i>Straits Settlements.</i>	<i>Germany.</i>	<i>United States.</i>	<i>Netherlands East Indies.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>
1927 ...	76	228	81	26	151	109	820
1928 ...	40	280	45	30	109	129	651

The value of domestic and foreign copra exported to principal countries for the same periods was :—

	<i>France.</i>	<i>Italy.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>
1927 ...	244	89	337
1928 ...	122	250	372

The value of piece-goods imported from principal countries for the same periods was :—

	<i>United Kingdom.</i>	<i>Holland.</i>	<i>British India.</i>	<i>Japan.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>	<i>£000s.</i>
1927 ...	129	50	96	69	363
1928 ...	112	40	64	47	283

There is keen competition between British India and Japan for the supply of grey cotton goods.

Trade Prospects.

Trade must inevitably remain dull until the general expectation that next season's clove harvest will be one of high yield is supported by an authentic crop forecast. The adverse conditions experienced during the last few months of the year have, however, left the economic stability of the Protectorate's agricultural industries unimpaired, and a general improvement of business towards the latter half of 1929 may be confidently predicted.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

(1) Shipping.

The total number of ocean-going vessels which called at Zanzibar during the year 1928 was 346, representing a total gross registered tonnage of 2,380,102, a decrease of 7 ships but an increase of 35,531 gross registered tons over the previous year.

The number of coasting vessels entered and cleared during the year was 314 with a total gross registered tonnage of 232,335, compared with 258 vessels with a gross registered tonnage of 107,627, in the year 1927.

During the year, 3,914 dhows entered the port, having an aggregate tonnage of 74,881, compared with 4,626 of 85,739 tons in 1927.

The Union-Castle Mail Steamship Company, Limited, and the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, each maintain a monthly service to and from London, the former alternately via Suez and via the Cape.

Steamers of the Clan-Ellerman-Harrison and Ellerman-Bucknall lines call at Zanzibar monthly (irregular service).

A fortnightly service between Marseilles and Madagascar is provided by the Messageries Maritimes.

A monthly service of passenger and cargo steamers between Zanzibar and Genoa is maintained by the Compagnia Italiana Transatlantica.

The United Netherlands Navigation Company provides a good service of cargo and passenger steamers on their Holland-East Africa Line.

The British India Steam Navigation Company's m.v. "Dumra" maintains a coasting service between Lamu and Mikindani.

The Zanzibar Government steamers make regular weekly voyages to Pemba and Dar-es-Salaam.

Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros. maintain a regular coasting service from Zanzibar to Kismayu.

A monthly service of passenger and cargo steamers from Hamburg via the Cape and Hamburg via Suez, one steamer each way, is maintained by the Deutsche Ost-Afrika-Linie.

A monthly passenger and cargo service from Massaua via Aden, the Italian Benadir ports and Kenya to Zanzibar and back is provided by the Compagnia Italiana Transatlantica.

The Osaka Shosen Kaisha maintain a monthly service between Zanzibar and Japan.

The British India Steam Navigation Company maintain a fortnightly service between Bombay and Durban via Zanzibar.

(II) Roads.**ZANZIBAR.**

The construction of the main road to Makunduchi in the south of the Island (38 miles from Zanzibar town) was advanced 9.9 miles and its branch road to Unguja Kuu ($20\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Zanzibar town) was completed.

The road from Dunga to Mgeni Haji which was built in 1925 was extended $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Mchangani. The total length is now 6 miles.

The metalling of the Mdo-Chuini road was completed in April. The road was opened by His Highness the Sultan and was named Princess Marie Louise Road in honour of Her Highness' visit to Zanzibar.

PEMBA.

That portion of the central trunk road which will link Chake-Chake and Mwembeduka, and which was commenced in 1927, was further advanced. Earth formation was completed and communication between the two centres established. Notwithstanding the irregular topography of the district the maximum gradient has been confined to 6 per cent. Heavy earthworks were involved and the cuttings in several instances exceeded 30 feet in depth. The distance between the two centres has been ascertained to be 12.7 miles and of this total six miles were metalled and waterproofed with colas. In addition four bridges and all necessary culverts were inserted.

Progress was made also on the route Weti-Matangatwani-Konde-Msuka. Earth formation was improved throughout and a length of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles metalled and waterproofed.

The topography of the district is fairly regular, but stone suitable for road-making is not readily obtainable. Necessary culverts on the section Weti-Matangatwani have been inserted. The existing metalled roads in the Island were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(iii) Port Facilities.

The new wharf (see also under "General") forms a most important link between internal and overseas communications.

(iv) Postal.

During the year 1928, 518 vessels arrived and 543 sailed with mails, compared with 498 and 525 respectively for the previous year.

A comparative statement of articles dealt with in 1927 and 1928 is given below, and shows an increase of 134,525 for the year under review :—

				1927.	1928.
Letter mail :					
Foreign	...	...	...	1,119,867	1,221,408
Inland	...	...	...	225,869	258,456
Transit	...	...	...	35,548	36,616
Parcel mail :					
Foreign	...	...	...	12,642	11,971
Total	...			1,393,926	1,528,451

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

Justice, in cases in which persons subject to the Zanzibar Order in Council, 1924, are concerned, is administered by His Britannic Majesty's High Court and the Courts subordinate to it, and in other cases by His Highness the Sultan's Court for Zanzibar and the Courts subordinate to that Court. Subordinate Courts are held by Resident Magistrates, Administrative Officers, and Arab Kathis. In addition, District Courts, composed of benches of local headmen, exercise a limited criminal jurisdiction. An appeal lies from the British Court and from the Zanzibar Court in the exercise of their original civil and criminal jurisdiction to His Majesty's Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa and thence to the Privy Council.

During the year 1928 there was a general decrease in the volume of civil work in all Courts. There was a very considerable and equally general decrease in the number of cases for hearing on the criminal side. As compared with the two previous years there was a very satisfactory diminution in the more serious crimes, and it was noteworthy that there were no cases of robbery or dacoity before the Courts. The work of the Registry of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks showed a slight increase in comparison with the year 1927.

Police and Prisons.

Police.—The Police Force consists of 6 Officers, 1 British Non-Commissioned Officer, 1 British Bandmaster, 1 Paymaster, 1 Quartermaster, 18 Inspectors, 2 Clerks, 538 Rank and File, 22 Detectives, 36 Band, 2 Gunners, and 12 Followers. The general health of the Force was good both in the town of Zanzibar and at outstations ; there were four deaths and ten invalidings during the year compared with six deaths and eighteen invalidings in 1927. The King's Police Medal was conferred on the Commandant and the African Police Medal for Meritorious Service on three Non-Commissioned Officers.

During the year there were several disturbances in the town of Zanzibar, the most serious of which was a faction fight between Hadramout Arabs and Muscat Arabs which resulted in five persons being killed and a large number injured. The ringleaders were arrested and deported.

The Protectorate's immunity from dacoity has been maintained, only one case having been reported from Pemba. There has been a decrease in the number of cases reported to the Police except under the headings of murder, grievous hurt, and house-breaking. The increase in the number of house-breaking cases was confined to petty cases. Sixty-six prosecutions were instituted during the year under the Dangerous Drugs Decree and convictions obtained in 64 cases as against 48 prosecutions and 41 convictions in 1927.

Twenty outbreaks of fire were reported during the year in the town area of which two only were serious. The fires, with one exception, occurred in the native quarter of the town.

Prisons.—The health of the prisoners was good.

No case of capital punishment occurred during the year.

Prison industries included tailoring, carpentry, rope-weaving and mat-making.

There was an outbreak of prisoners from the Central Prison in October. The prisoners concerned were safely reincarcerated on the same day and the ringleaders were subsequently punished.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary amounted to £132,971, made up as follows :—

	£
Buildings	16,087
Harbour Works	51,662
Road Construction, Zanzibar	21,025
Road Construction, Pemba... ..	29,080
Acquisition of Property for Public Purposes	1,727
Miscellaneous Works	2,673
Water Supply and Drainage	3,115
Creek Improvement	2,143
Port Facilities, Pemba	5,459
Total	£132,971

The satisfactory progress of the Harbour Works has been noted under the section "General." It is anticipated that the whole of the works will be completed by September, 1929.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the population throughout the year was satisfactory and no epidemics occurred.

Insect-borne Diseases.—Malaria and filariasis are very common amongst the native population.

Anti-malarial work consisting of swamp drainage, the grading, maintenance and cleansing of water channels, methodical routine searching for larvae and their breeding places, and the oiling of cesspools and other immovable collections of water was carried out in the town of Zanzibar and in the District townships.

Larvivoracious fish are bred at the Health Office in Zanzibar and distributed free of charge for placing in mosque tanks and other public collections of water. Prosecutions are instituted in cases where the orders of the Health Authorities are not complied with.

Helminthic Diseases.—These are very common in the native population. Practically a hundred per cent. suffer from ankylostomiasis to a greater or less degree, while bilharziasis and ascariasis vary in intensity according to the district. Taeniasis, on the other hand, is rare.

Ankylostomiasis is treated extensively with carbon tetrachloride ; and propaganda measures are taken in the form of pamphlets, popular lectures, and the erection of model latrines in the principal villages and district dispensaries.

General Diseases.—These are chiefly respiratory and venereal. Bronchitis and pneumonia are common, the latter being responsible for many deaths, while pulmonary tuberculosis is a frequent cause of ill-health and death of both natives and Asiatics in the town of Zanzibar. Gonorrhoea is both more frequent and a more serious factor in general health than syphilis.

Yaws is a common disease and treatment with bismuth potassium sodium tartrate has been found both efficacious and popular.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—A Maternity Home in charge of a qualified European Midwife is situated on the outskirts of the Native Town. Attached to the Home is an out-patient clinic for women and children, conducted by the Midwife.

Research Work.—During the year the Economic Biologist continued his investigations into ankylostomiasis, schistosomiasis, and ascariasis. The vector of schistosomiasis was found to be a snail which is prevalent in all swamps and in the backwaters of rivers throughout the Protectorate.

Legislation.—No legislation affecting Public Health was enacted during the year, but comprehensive Township and Public Health Bills were drafted.

IX.—EDUCATION.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

Post-Primary.—To the Teachers' Training School are admitted pupils whose education has reached the standard of the third and fourth years of studying English, provided they pass satisfactory tests conducted by the English Master-in-Charge. Started in 1923, it has now produced 16 trained teachers, five of whom passed out in February, 1928. At the end of the year 35 pupils were in training. In the absence of other suitable post-primary schools, a few pupils are now taking part of this course with a view to work in the Administration Department and one has been seconded for specialist work as a visiting Dispenser.

At the Commercial School the number on roll at the end of the year was 20, all being Indians. Early in 1928, 16 pupils sat for the final examination and seven were awarded Certificates or Diplomas.

Elementary and Primary.—The elementary stage consists of an infants' class and three subsequent standards followed in the case of the town school, called the Government Central School, by four English (or primary) standards. The roll of this combined elementary and primary school was 359, while at the thirteen district elementary schools there were 807 pupils.

The Arab Girls' School developed in a most gratifying way. There are now 77 pupils.

Adult evening classes on a graded system are conducted at the town school. These classes have existed for some years but have not previously been included in the Blue Book figures.

The total increase of pupils on the roll of Government schools for the year is 341.

Of the Arab and African population of school age 5.49 per cent. are in attendance as compared with 4.37 in 1927.

Vocational Training.—For the four trades taught in town there were 58 indentured apprentices: at Chake-Chake in Pemba there were ten.

Inter-departmental co-operation has made possible considerable advance in practical agriculture and in practical health work in the villages.

INDIAN SCHOOLS.

There are 11 schools in town as against 12 in 1927, one small private school having been closed. Four small schools in Pemba have been added. The total number attending these schools was 1,786, while at Government and Mission schools there were 168 pupils, making a grand total of 1,954, of whom 682 were girls.

Progress in efficiency is being made in the grant-in-aid schools, and two other Indian schools have now applied for grants.

MISSION SCHOOLS.

Under the Missions there are five mixed schools and four schools for boys only, with a total of 171 boys and 155 girls. Of these 115 boys and 79 girls are Africans. Adult Mission classes show a total of 381, including 29 women.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Routine inspection is carried on in several of the Government schools and in two grant schools, and sick pupils attend the School Clinic or are sent to hospital.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The Topographical Survey of the Island of Zanzibar is now well in hand, and is proceeding satisfactorily.

XI.—LABOUR.

Down to the year 1897, when slavery was abolished, labour in Zanzibar was of two kinds, slave and free, the latter being that provided by the Wahadimu and Wapemba in accordance with agreements made with the Sultans.

Considerable labour difficulties followed the abolition of slavery, the freed slaves being disinclined to do more than was necessary for a bare subsistence, but to-day there is a plentiful supply both for public works and for agricultural purposes. Ordinary unskilled labour is paid at the rate of 10 annas per diem in Zanzibar and 12 annas in Pemba, and clove harvesting labour (as a result of co-operation on the part of the members of the Clove Growers' Association) at the rate of 5 pice per "pishi" (see under "Weights and Measures").

Immigrant labour from the neighbouring mainland dependencies is encouraged, and is used very largely for the cleaning and weeding of the plantations and for public works, while the natives of the Protectorate provide most of the labour required for the harvesting of the clove crop.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meteorological.

The meteorological records taken during the year in Zanzibar (Town) and in Pemba (Banani) compared with the normals are as follows:—

	Zanzibar (Town).			Pemba (Banani).		
	1892-1926.	1927.	1928.	1899-1926.	1927.	1928.
Temperature of the Air—						
Mean of daily maxima	F. 84.5	84.6	84.1	F. 86.6	86.1	86.0
Mean of daily minima	76.5	76.4	76.8	76.0	77.1	77.2
Mean of daily range...	8.0	8.0	7.3	10.6	9.0	8.8
Mean ...	80.5	80.5	80.4	81.3	81.6	81.6
Rainfall (inches) ...	59.43	70.53	59.19	81.72	66.17	84.18
Rainy days ...	100	140	117	162	162	172

Legislation.

Fourteen Decrees were enacted in 1928, of which the following are the most important :—

Ground Rent Restriction. No. 6.—The attention of the Government was directed to the hardship caused to native owners of huts in the town of Zanzibar by the arbitrary increase of ground rents on the part of their landlords. Cases occurred where hut owners had been sued for heavy arrears of increased rents, and in default of payment their huts were, in many cases, eventually sold, usually at a low price. Many of these people were permitted twenty-five or thirty years ago to squat on land then vacant, and to build their huts on sites for which they paid little or no rent. As the native quarter grew, these lands changed hands and became valuable estates, the present owners of which were not slow in realising their potential value, and have lately seized every opportunity of increasing the rents to four and five times the original rates. This action gave rise to much indignation and dissatisfaction among the native tenantry, and the Government considered a strong case had been made out for intervention.

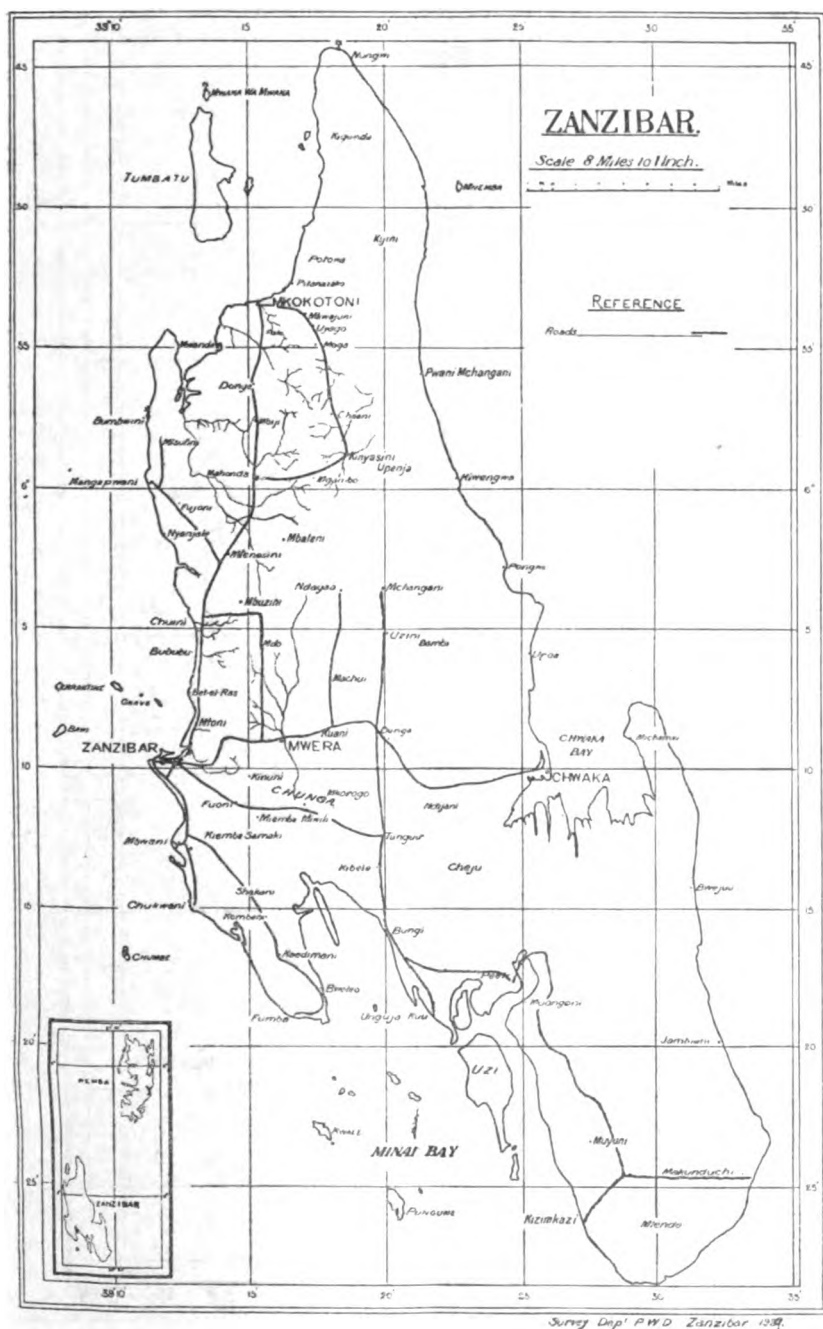
The Decree sets up a rent tribunal, and provides suitable machinery for adjustment of difficulties. It became necessary later in the year to amend and implement the law in the light of experience gained. The amending Decree provides for a moratorium, and at the same time creates a prior charge on hut property in favour of landlords in respect of arrears of rent.

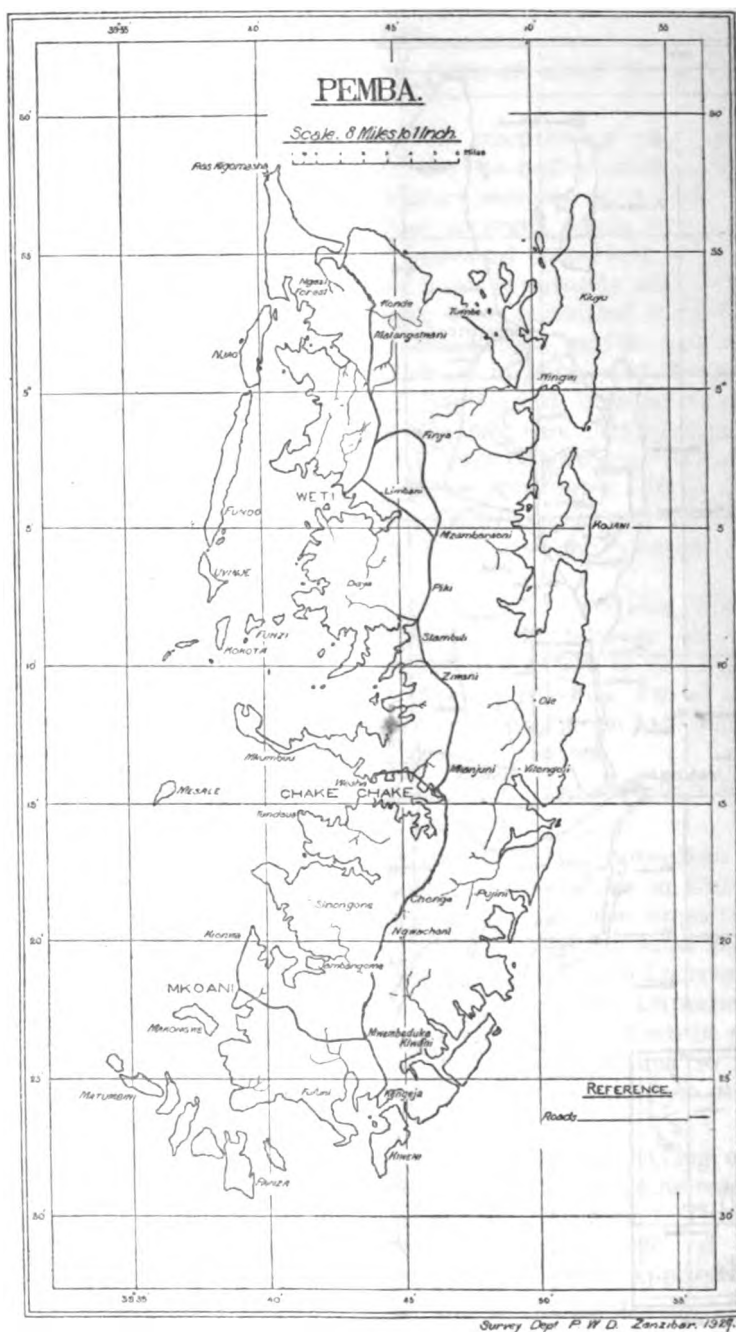
Arbitration. No. 7.—A Decree in common form modelled on the Imperial Arbitration Act, 1889.

Moneylenders. No. 8.—Certain irregularities in connection with the registration of moneylenders disclosed a weakness in the local law, which entailed substantial amendment, and the opportunity was taken to revise its provisions in the light of the Imperial Moneylenders Act, 1927. Local moneylending business does not correspond exactly with English ideas, but the principles of the Imperial Act have been applied as far as circumstances permit. Certain of its more stringent provisions have been deleted or curtailed so as to avoid the imposition of undue restrictions which, in the face of local conditions, could not be justified.

Stamp Duty. No. 13.—Unforeseen complications having arisen in the administration of the Stamp Decree, 1927, it became essential to introduce a new law in more comprehensive form. This new Decree follows very closely the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

In addition to those described above, two formal Appropriation laws and seven short amending Decrees were enacted.





Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

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[Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

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NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1928.

Table of Contents.

	Page.
History and Geography	2
Section I.—General	5
Section II.—Finance	10
Section III.—Production	11
Section IV.—Trade and Commerce	17
Section V.—Communications	22
Section VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons	27
Section VII.—Public Works	32
Section VIII.—Public Health	34
Section IX.—Education	35
Section X.—Lands and Survey	37
Section XI.—Labour	39
Section XII.—Miscellaneous	39

Map of the Colony and Protectorate.

NIGERIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1928.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY.

The Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria is situated on the northern shores of the Gulf of Guinea. It is bounded on the west and north by French territory and on the east by the former German Colony of the Cameroons. Great Britain has received a mandate over a small portion of the Cameroons (31,150 square miles) which, for purposes of administration, has been placed under the Nigerian Government. The remainder of the Cameroons is administered by the French under a mandate, so that, for practical purposes, all the land frontiers of Nigeria march with French territory.

2. The area of Nigeria, including the mandated area of the Cameroons, is approximately 373,078 square miles (Southern Provinces and Colony 91,139 square miles; Northern Provinces 281,939 square miles) and it is thus larger than any British Dependency other than Tanganyika, India and the self-governing Dominions. It is more than three times the size of the United Kingdom. Along the entire coast-line runs a belt, from 10 to 60 miles in width, of dense mangrove forest and swamp, intersected by the branches of the Niger delta and other rivers, which are connected one with another by innumerable creeks, the whole constituting a continuous inland waterway from beyond the western boundary of Nigeria almost to the Cameroons. Behind this belt lies the denser forest region rich in oil-palm trees and valuable mahoganies. Further inland the forests become thinner and are succeeded by open ground covered with long grass and occasional clumps of trees. In the extreme north, where there is a very small rainfall and little vegetation, the desert is slowly but steadily encroaching. There are few mountains in the southern portion of Nigeria except along the eastern boundary, but north and east of the junction of the rivers Niger and Benue there is a large plateau from 2,000 to 6,000 feet in height. The country is well watered by rivers, especially in the south. Besides the Niger and Benue, which during the rainy season are navigable by steamers as far as Jebba and Yola respectively, there are a number of important rivers of which the Cross River is the largest. Except for Lake Chad, on the extreme north-east frontier, there are no large lakes.

3. The population of Nigeria according to the latest returns is 18,810,534* (Southern Provinces and Colony, 8,360,734; Northern Provinces, 10,449,800), and is larger than that of any

* Includes population of the mandated area of the Cameroons.

British Dependency except India. There are about 5,700 Europeans temporarily resident in Nigeria, chiefly in the employ of the Government, and of mercantile and mining companies. The country is not suited for European settlement. Of the native inhabitants the greater number are of pure negro race, but in the north there are Berber and negroid tribes. Of the former the Yorubas, Ibos and Benis are the most important, and of the latter the Fulani, the Kanuri and the Hausa-speaking tribes, generally called Hausas. The Yorubas occupy the south-west corner of Nigeria and from an early date possessed an organised government. The Benis are now a comparatively small tribe, but Benin was formerly a very powerful kingdom and its influence extended over a considerable area. The Ibos are a large unorganised tribe who occupy most of the land east of the lower Niger. The Kanuri occupy Bornu, in the north-east of Nigeria, a kingdom which has survived for many centuries in spite of great vicissitudes. It was known to the Portuguese as early as the 15th century and to Arab geographers several centuries earlier. The Hausas occupy the greater portion of northern Nigeria and from an early date had attained to a fairly high level of civilisation. At the beginning of the 19th century the Hausa States were conquered by the Fulani, a nomad people who had settled in the towns and country of Hausaland and who, by their superior intelligence, had acquired great power and influence. The existing Hausa system of law and administration based on the Koran was retained, but Fulani dynasties were established in various states.

4. The coast of Nigeria first became known to Europe towards the end of the 15th century as the result of the visits of Portuguese explorers. Shortly afterwards the demand for negro labour in the American and West Indian colonies created an immense trade in slaves and for over three hundred years the west coast of Africa was visited in large numbers by the slave ships of all nations. At the beginning of the 19th century efforts were made to suppress the traffic, which was declared illegal, and a British naval squadron was stationed on the Coast to intercept the slave ships. With the decline of the slave trade the traffic in palm oil and other tropical products rapidly increased, and the visits of naval ships, and later of the British Consul at Fernando Po gave to the British a considerable prestige and influence among the tribes inhabiting the coast of Nigeria. In 1851 British support was given to an exiled King of Lagos, who, in return, pledged himself to abolish the slave trade in Lagos, which was at that time the chief slave market in West Africa. Finding himself powerless against the slave-dealing faction, his son ceded Lagos to the British in 1861 and the British Colony of Lagos came into being the following year.

5. By the exertions of Mungo Park (1796-1805), Captain Clapperton (1822-26), Richard Lander (1826-30), Doctor Barth (1850-55) and numerous other explorers, most of whom lost their lives in the country, the course of the Niger and the existence of the Fulani kingdoms in the interior became known, and an attempt was made by Mr. Macgregor Laird and others to open up the interior to trade. In spite of the efforts of these pioneers, who were supported to a certain extent by the British Government and philanthropists, eager to strangle the slave

trade by legitimate traffic, the early efforts were not successful, owing to the heavy mortality among the European crews of vessels ascending the river. A better knowledge of conditions, and the use of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria, made later operations more successful and before 1860 trade was established along the banks of the Rivers Niger and Benue. In 1879 the various British firms trading on these rivers were amalgamated, and in 1887 a Charter was granted to the amalgamated companies, which became known as the Royal Niger Company, Chartered and Limited. By this Charter the Company became responsible for the government of the river basins and the whole of Hausaland and Bornu, but, in practice, its influence extended little beyond the banks of the rivers.

6. The Berlin Conference of 1885 had recognised the British claim to a protectorate over Nigeria and that part of the country which was not included within the Lagos territories of the sphere of the Chartered Company was made into a separate administration under Foreign Office control and became known as the Oil Rivers Protectorate and later as the Niger Coast Protectorate.

7. Owing to the restrictions on trade caused by artificial boundaries and the virtual monopoly which the Niger Company exercised, to the inability of the Company's forces to restrain the slave-raiding propensities of the Fulani Chiefs, and to foreign aggression on the western frontiers, it became necessary for the British Government to assume a more direct control over the country. The Company's Charter was accordingly revoked on the 1st January, 1900, and the northern portion of their territories became the Northern Nigeria Protectorate; the southern portion was added to the Niger Coast Protectorate and the whole was renamed the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria. Both the Northern and Southern Protectorates were placed under Colonial Office control.

8. In 1898 an Imperial Force, recruited locally, but with British Officers, was raised by Sir Frederick (now Lord) Lugard, and was later taken over by the Colonial Government. This force was named the West African Frontier Force and the armed constabularies of the other West African Colonies and Protectorates were modelled on it. Soon after the establishment of the Northern Nigeria Protectorate, these troops were used to subdue the Muhammadan rulers of the Hausa states and Bornu who had persistently ignored the British requests for the cessation of slave-raiding and whose attitude was one of open hostility to an administration of whose power they had had no proof. As each in turn was conquered a new ruler was appointed who undertook to govern his country according to local law and tradition, but without slave-raiding and the extortion and inhuman cruelties which had marked the former régime. British Residents were stationed throughout the country and exercised a wholesome check on any tendency to relapse.

9. In the south there were fewer large states and the people on the whole were of a much lower standard of intelligence and development. On the lower reaches of the Benue River, a Jekri chief, named Nana, defied the Protectorate Government and dealt openly in slaves. He was attacked by a naval and military force and defeated in 1894 after severe fighting. In 1897 a peaceful mission to the King of Benin was massacred and

another combined expedition was despatched: Benin was captured and was found to be full of the remains of human sacrifices, for which the City had long had an unpleasant reputation. In 1902 the Aro tribe was subdued.

10. While the remainder of the country was being opened up, the hinterland of Lagos was being added by cession to the territories originally ceded by the King of Lagos in 1861. In 1866 Lagos had been included in the West African Settlements and in 1874 it was united with the Gold Coast Colony. It became the separate Colony and Protectorate of Lagos in 1886.

11. In 1906 Lagos and Southern Nigeria were amalgamated and in 1914 Northern Nigeria was included and the whole country became the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

12. On the outbreak of war in 1914 the Nigeria Regiment (of the West African Frontier Force) took part in the campaign which resulted in the conquest of the neighbouring German Colony of the Cameroons and a strong contingent of the Regiment also fought in the East African Campaign. On the whole the loyalty of the chiefs and people of Nigeria throughout the war was very marked, but there was a somewhat serious rising in Egbaland in 1918 which was quickly subdued.

13. The principal languages spoken are, in the Northern Provinces, Hausa, Fulani, and Arabic; and in the Southern Provinces, Yoruba, Efik, Ibo, and Ibibio.

14. The currency is controlled by the West African Currency Board which was constituted in November, 1912, to provide for the currency of the British West African Colonies and Protectorates. The coins current are:—United Kingdom gold, silver, and bronze; West African silver and alloy coins of the values of two shillings, one shilling, sixpence and threepence; and Nigerian nickel-bronze coins of the values of one penny, one halfpenny and one-tenth of a penny. United Kingdom notes are legal tender; and West African notes of one pound and ten shillings are also current. The United Kingdom coins are being gradually superseded by the West African and Nigerian coinage.

15. The weights and measures used in Nigeria are the same as those used in Great Britain.

1.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

16. The main political divisions of Nigeria are the Colony of Nigeria, and two groups of Provinces, known as the Northern and Southern Provinces, which together form the Protectorate. The whole country is under the control of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief to whom the Lieutenant-Governors of the Northern and Southern Provinces and the Administrator of the Colony are responsible. The Governor is assisted by an Executive Council consisting of a few of the senior officials. By Order in Council dated the 21st of November, 1922, and entitled the Nigeria (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1922, the former bodies known as the Nigerian Council and the Legislative Council were abolished and a larger and more representative Legislative Council was substituted for them. This new Legislative Council

consists of:—The Governor, as President; thirty Official Members; three elected Unofficial Members representing the municipal area of Lagos and one representing the municipal area of Calabar; and not more than fifteen nominated Unofficial Members. These fifteen are selected to include nominees of the Chambers of Commerce of Lagos, Port Harcourt, Calabar and Kano, of the local Chamber of Mines, and of the Banking and Shipping interests, together with members representing African interests in parts of the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate which do not return elected representatives to the Legislative Council. This Council legislates only for the Colony and the Southern Provinces of the Protectorate and the Governor continues to legislate for the Northern Provinces of the Protectorate. The power of taxation in the Northern Provinces is left with the Governor and the scope of the Legislative Council in financial affairs is confined to the Colony and Southern Provinces, except that the sanction of the Council is required for all expenditure out of the funds and revenues of the Central Government which is incurred in the Northern Provinces. There is thus a measure of direct representation of the people by members elected by themselves to the Legislative Council.

17. The first elections for the unofficial members for Lagos and Calabar were held on the 20th of September, 1923, and aroused the keenest interest. The new Legislative Council was inaugurated by the Governor on the 31st of October, 1923.

18. The Protectorate (including the mandated territory of the Cameroons) is divided into twenty-two provinces, each under the immediate control of a Resident.

19. In the Northern Provinces the leading Emirs continue to work with efficiency and in co-operation with their advisers and show every desire for administrative progress and economic development.

Their interest in things in general is not now limited to their own territory. This is instanced by the visit of the Emir of Gombe to Kano and Zaria, by those of the Emirs of Zaria and Katsina to the Plateau Province and of the Attah of Igbirra to Kano, Zaria and Katsina.

20. The Governor in March and April visited the Kano, Ilorin, Zaria, Niger and Sokoto Provinces. At Bida, on 16th April, His Excellency installed Saidu, Eighth Emir of Bida. In August he visited the Plateau and Kano Provinces.

21. There have been no changes in the Political Administration of the Northern Provinces throughout the year under review.

A successful Conference of Residents of the Northern Provinces was held in Kaduna in September; many important questions of administration were discussed and certain non-officials were invited to join in the discussion as regards subjects which were of particular interest to them.

22. Serious disturbances in the Northern Provinces have been confined to the Idoma Division of Benue Province. A police patrol became necessary in February, and it was considered advisable to convert it into a military patrol at the end of that month. All serious opposition was over by the middle of March but it was considered advisable to retain troops in the area until all the ringleaders had been captured or had surrendered. Only

six village areas were implicated in the disturbances and of these five had submitted and surrendered their ringleaders and their arms before the end of April. The sixth, Njelele, the home of Ogboloko, who was the prime instigator of the trouble, held out longer, and Ogboloko still remains at large though a fugitive with only two or three personal followers. All active opposition ceased in April, but troops have been continuously in Njelele since May.

A patrol was sent to Muraye in Sokoto Province where the villagers took up arms in order to reject the appointment of the Village Head. No fighting ensued.

23. Reports on the cotton crops are favourable and prospects for the season are good.

24. Foodstuff crop prospects are reported to be above the average and there has been no recurrence of the famine conditions of last year.

25. Rainfall throughout Nigeria approached the normal, as opposed to last year's figures which showed considerable variations from the average.

26. Debundscha with 77.45 inches during September recorded the heaviest rainfall for any one month during the year; other figures were as follows:—

Station.				1928.	Average
Lagos ...	...	...	...	79.05	72.00
Calabar ...	...	...	...	140.83	119.42
Lokoja ...	...	...	...	62.06	47.00
Kaduna ...	...	...	...	50.52	55.62
Jos ...	...	...	...	58.92	56.65
Sokoto ...	...	...	...	23.27	25.00
Maiduguri ...	...	...	...	23.35	22.46

27. The strong financial position of the Native Treasuries, as previously reported, was maintained in 1927-28. The balances carried forward on the 1st April, 1928, including sums invested in securities (£509,582) amounted to £1,329,353. The aggregate revenue fell short of that of the previous year by £9,052. From the 1st April, 1928, fully organised Native Treasuries received seventy *per cent.* of general taxes instead of fifty *per cent.* as heretofore.

28. The Shalla Irrigation Scheme in the Sokoto Province now covers 760 acres. Of this area, 160 acres comprise a Government Experimental Farm, and 450 acres which lie close to the Canal and its distributaries can be made easily accessible to water by the farmers themselves. The farm has so far proved most successful, the crops grown are valuable, and a vast area awaits the control of the flood water for rice-growing.

29. There have been no serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases during the year although in Kabba smallpox has been prevalent.

There was a widespread outbreak of influenza in August, September and October in Bauchi.

The tsetse fly investigation work at Sherifuri continues, and the construction of the new Laboratory at Gadau was started in March.

30. There have been the usual outbreaks of rinderpest among cattle, the most notable being in Adamawa, and in Gwandu Division of the Sokoto Province.

The Laboratory at Vom continues its successful anti-rinderpest campaign and the amount of serum cultured and issued during the year exceeds that of last year. Fulani cattle owners evince the greatest keenness to have their cattle treated and travel long distances to this end, the fee of 1s. per head of cattle being willingly paid.

Approximately 125,000 head of cattle have been immunised against rinderpest. There are now six immunisation camps in being at Tumu and Foggo in Bauchi, at Mai-Idontoro in Plateau, at Maska in Zaria, at Gurori in Adamawa and at Gangara in Kano, and it is hoped that two additional camps, one in Sokoto and one in Bornu, will be opened early next year. In addition to the serum produced at Vom, the production of serum now forms part of the routine work of each immunisation camp.

Outbreaks of pleuro-pneumonia have been dealt with by vaccination, and experiments are still in progress as to the best method of combating this very serious disease. Much work has been undertaken in connection with the skin diseases of goats and the consequential damage to the tanned skins.

31. A Veterinary Officer completed a course of instruction at several tanneries in England and is now engaged in Kano in instituting a scheme for the education of the butchers in the proper method of flaying.

32. The following important Chiefs have died during the year: Mohammadu, Emir of Jamaari, and the Lamido of Adamawa.

33. The following Chiefs have been appointed:—

Saidu, Emir of Bida; Audu, Emir of Dabai; Muhammadu Maiyaki Iya, Emir of Keffi; Mustapha, Lamido of Adamawa; and Mohammadu Wabi, Emir of Jamaari.

34. In the Southern Provinces the chief event of the year has been the introduction of taxation into the hitherto untaxed Provinces of Warri, Calabar, Onitsha, Ogoja and Owerri. Under the tactful guidance of the Administrative Staff collection of tax has for the most part proceeded smoothly and instances of overt opposition have been negligible. The estimated totals have in nearly every case been exceeded, and only a few small sums are outstanding for the financial year 1928-29. There has been no recurrence of the anti-tax agitation in Warri Province, while in Onitsha Province it is reported that the people are already beginning to appreciate the benefits resulting from the activities of the Native Administrations in improving communications, and in other directions.

In Ogoja Province, however, some opposition to the tax was encountered among certain tribes of the Abakaliki Division. The difficulties were eventually overcome by the Resident himself, and the ringleaders of the disturbance punished.

In Calabar Province tax collection was successfully concluded and an important step in the progress of Native Administration was the formation of a Central Council of Chiefs for each Administration.

35. At Oyo an extensive water supply scheme has been carried out and a reservoir capable of holding 67,000,000 gallons of water has been constructed. At Ijebu Ode the new Native

Administration Waterworks were opened by the Lieutenant-Governor in May.

36. In July there was a mild outbreak of yellow fever at Ife but vigorous sanitary measures have resulted in the reduction of the mosquito index with the result that the epidemic has ended.

An epidemic broke out in the Kukuruku Division and the Rockefeller Yellow Fever Commission immediately made investigations. They have established the fact that it is not yellow fever but have not yet been able to determine its true nature. Fortunately the mortality has not been heavy.

The new European Hospital at Ibadan was opened in November. A semi-permanent Native Hospital is in course of construction at Agbor.

Considerable improvement and extension of hospital facilities have been carried out both by the Government and by Missions, especially in the St. Margaret's (Government African) Hospital, Calabar, the United Free Church Hospital at Itu, and the Qua Ibo Mission Hospital at Ikenau.

The United Free Church have, with the financial assistance of Government, been able to treat some 1,000 lepers at their leper colony at Itu.

A new medical station with a Medical Officer has been opened at Bansa in the Bamenda Division and new semi-permanent hospitals at Mamfe and Bamenda have been completed.

37. Two new Native Administration schools have been opened at Muyuku and Kurume, and at Ijebu-Ode a Native Administration library has been established, with a branch at Shagamu.

38. The Ilugun-Olokemeji-Eruwa road has been completed, and work is in progress on the Ifo-Ilaro-Idogo railway which should be finished by the end of 1929.

The Ondo-Agbabu road has been completed and communications between Agbabu and Okitipupa have been improved by deepening the channel of the Oluwa River.

Some progress has been made with the Enugu-Bamenda trunk road and the Eastern Aboine River has been bridged.

The Native Administrations of the Cameroons have devoted much of their time and money to the improvement of road communications and good progress has been made.

The Victoria-Buea-Kumba motor road was opened in June while in the Mamfe and Bamenda Divisions motor communication is being extended to all important Native Administration Headquarters. The Public Works Department has commenced construction on the Mamfe-Bamenda trunk road.

39. The big building programme at Enugu has made rapid progress and already the Secretariat buildings are nearing completion but the plans of the site for the Lieutenant-Governor's house have not yet been approved.

40. It has to be recorded with regret that towards the end of the year serious allegations of general corruption were made against the Native Administration at Ijebu-Ode which necessitated the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry.

41. Early in the year the increasing economic and administrative importance of the water-side area of the Ondo Division necessitated its constitution as a separate unit under the title of the Okitipupa Division.

42. The so-called " Spirit Movement " which broke out last year in the northern Ibibio country and was the cause of numerous outrages has abated considerably. Eleven " spirit " people were convicted on murder charges and three were executed.

43. The opening up of the Mamfe Division of the Cameroons Province has resulted in a considerable increase of trade to Calabar, but it is regretted that the smuggling of tobacco and cigarettes from Duala is having an increasingly adverse effect.

44. The histories of the clans of the Warri Province are being studied in order that Native Court areas may eventually coincide with the clans or groups of clans.

45. Several experimental wireless installations have been made by private individuals and one set at Trofani on the Niger (Ase District) is said to have picked up the following stations:—

Chelmsford, Pittsburg, Schenectady, Paris and Moscow.

46. Tiko was declared a port in August and customs sheds and offices have been erected.

47. During the year the Ogoja Province suffered a loss by the death, in England, of Mr. R. H. J. Sasse, Resident of the Province.

II—FINANCE.

48. The revenue and expenditure for the past five years, including that of the Nigerian Railway, were as follows:—

	True Revenue.	True Expenditure.	Expenditure on Loan Works.
	£	£	£
1923-24 ...	6,260,561	5,501,242	1,900,170
1924-25 ...	6,944,220	5,768,715	1,375,210
1925-26 ...	8,268,928	6,583,167	1,183,728
1926-27 ...	7,734,429	7,584,692	1,016,162
1927-28 ...	8,728,451	9,147,530	959,777

49. The revenue and expenditure for the six months April to September, 1928, including that of the Nigerian Railway, amounted to £3,835,235 and £4,415,932 respectively. In addition a sum of £259,017 was advanced from revenue, and expended during the same period, for Loan Works (New Programme). The expenditure actually charged to the 1927 Loan

during this period was £474,619. From figures available it is estimated that the revenue for the current financial year will fall short of the anticipated expenditure by £1,178,478, which is £481,832 less than the deficit budgetted for when the 1928/29 Estimates were prepared. This anticipated reduction of the estimated deficit is due largely to the curtailment of the Public Works Department Extraordinary Works Programme, and to expected increases of revenue from Customs and Direct Taxes.

50. The excess of assets over liabilities at 31st March, 1928, was £5,281,089. To this should be added £374,170 advanced from revenue for Loan Works (New Programme), and recoverable from the Loan which it is proposed to raise in 1929, making a true surplus of £5,655,259. The Public Debt at 31st March, 1928, was £23,559,209, and accumulated Sinking Funds amounted to £1,698,872, which sum includes the total of the Supplementary Sinking Fund, £47,636, shown as an asset in the Colony's Balance Sheet. Full provision is being made for the amortisation of all loans by annual payments to the Sinking Funds.

51. The various Native Administrations throughout Nigeria have their own Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, deriving their revenue principally from a proportion of Direct Taxes, varying from fifty to seventy *per cent.* of the total collected. The total estimated revenue and expenditure for 1928-29 of all the Native Administrations together is £1,539,897 and £1,482,997 respectively.

52. Silver coin to the value of £149,513 was withdrawn from circulation during the financial year 1927-28, and £153,413 was shipped to the United Kingdom to be melted down. It is estimated that on 31st March, 1928, the following currency was in circulation:—silver, £423,000; alloy coin, £5,972,000; and nickel coin, £416,000; and throughout the West African Colonies, the total amount of West African Currency Notes in circulation was £791,313.

III.—PRODUCTION.

53. The prices of Nigeria's export products, on which the prosperity of the country depends, have remained very steadily, throughout 1928, at about the same level as in the latter part of 1927—with the sole exception of cocoa, of which the price this season is more than £10 below that of last season, which was exceptionally high. The climate of the year may fairly be described as having been about an average one for most crops. Production and export have thus been at a high level.

54. The remarks in the preceding paragraph are especially applicable to palm oil and palm kernels. The prices have remained very steady and the quantities exported in the year are likely to be very close to those of 1925 which was the record year. During August and September of this year the vigorous produce inspection system, which has been in operation in the

Western Provinces for some two years, was extended to the Eastern Provinces. There was a certain falling off in the palm kernel trade when the inspection was first introduced, but this lasted only for a few weeks, and is believed to have caused only a temporary holding up of produce, and little or no actual loss of trade. The inspection system is now working satisfactorily and has already brought about a great improvement in the quality of the produce from the Eastern Provinces.

55. The proper statistical year for the cocoa crop is from October 1st to September the 30th, since the harvest of the great bulk of the crop occurs in the period October to February. The season 1927-28 was, if anything, rather less favourable than usual, but the "out of season" crop was bigger than usual. The actual exports by seasons from Nigeria, excluding the Cameroons, in recent years are given in round figures, in the table below.

COCOA.

Exports (in tons) by seasons from Nigeria, excluding Cameroons.

						Tons.
1922-3	...	...	...	...	...	32,300.
1923-4	...	...	...	...	...	32,300.
1924-5	...	...	...	...	...	36,700.
1925-6	...	...	...	...	...	38,200.
1926-7	...	...	...	...	...	42,300.
1927-8	...	...	...	...	...	43,000.

56. The average quality of this year's cocoa crop will be higher than it has ever been before. This is partly due to the nature of the season, but to a much greater extent it is due to the influence of the produce inspection scheme. The effect of enforcing a high standard in the quality of cocoa as regards freedom from mouldy beans, and dryness, has now reached back through the various grades of buyers to the producer. Thus, except in regard to the small quantity of cocoa harvested "out of season," (which is almost inevitably inferior) practically the whole crop is now properly dried immediately after harvesting on the farms, and a really bad parcel of cocoa is a rare sight. This is a very great contrast to the state of affairs a few years ago when a good parcel was an exception. In the current season the produce inspectors are, for the first time, regularly grading cocoa in two grades according to the content of fermented beans. At present the position in regard to fermentation is the same as it was three years ago in regard to freedom from mouldy beans—really well-fermented cocoa is quite exceptional. It is hardly to be expected that improvement in fermentation can be effected as quickly as was the improvement in "purity" and drying. However, the efforts of the Agricultural Department in demonstrating the

technique of fermentation, and the higher prices paid by some firms for fermented cocoa during the last few years has already had a definite effect in increasing the care generally taken in fermentation and there is every reason to hope that the change now introduced into the produce inspection system will effect the desired improvement in the course of time. At present cocoa reaches the high standard demanded in the first grade, and as the trade has not fully realised how high that standard is, it is as yet hardly fetching the price that it is worth.

57. Like cocoa, groundnuts are harvested and marketed at the end of the calendar year so that it is again necessary to deal with a seasonal period, from October 1st to September the 30th. The position as regards export and prices in recent years is shown by the following figures:—

				Groundnuts.	
				Export in tons, October 1st-September 30th.	Average buying price at Kano, October 1st- March 31st.
					£ s. d.
1923-24	...	...	...	60,000	12 5 0
1924-25	...	...	...	132,000	13 7 6
1925-26	...	...	...	111,000	10 15 0
1926-27	...	...	...	90,000	11 19 0
1927-28	...	...	...	86,000	12 18 0

The price in the current season so far has been about £10 10s. per ton at Kano. The Northern Provinces have now completely recovered from the effect of the bad farming year of 1926, when the conditions approached those of a famine. The production and export this year promise to rival if not surpass those of 1924-25—the record season. The growing season was barely normal for yield per acre of groundnuts on the whole, and there was a certain amount of disease in some districts in the Kano Provinces, which is unusual. But the carriage of a few tons of groundnuts last year by construction trains on the Gusau branch railway has led to an extension of groundnuts growing in the area which that railway taps, and the export from that new area will even this year be appreciable. There is every indication that that railway will prove very successful and lead to increased production of groundnuts on the sandy soils of the area which it serves, just as it has already led to an increased production of cotton on the heavier soils. Another new factor in the groundnut trade this season has been the use of motor transport on a considerable scale in Kano Province for the first time. This also will have an effect in extending the area of production.

58. The production of American cotton for export in the Northern Provinces in the season 1927-28 amounted to barely 16,000 bales. This low figure is to be attributed partly to the low prices of 1926-27 and to the devotion of an exceptionally large area of land to the production of foodstuff to make up the shortage of the 1926 crop. In the current season 1927-28 the area planted in the "old" cotton-planting districts has been much greater than in the last two years—perhaps as great as it has ever been—but the yield per acre in these old districts seems to be rather below normal. There has been a great extension of planting in the Sokoto Province, and there the climatic con-

ditions seem to have been rather more favourable. The price paid for first grade cotton at the end of the year was $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. of seed cotton as against $2\frac{1}{8}$ d. a year ago. The grading system is now working perfectly smoothly at nearly all markets, and a desirable state of affairs has been reached in that most of the cotton is already well-graded before being sold by the producers, whether in the markets or to middlemen. The production of native cotton for export in the middle and Southern Provinces in 1927-28 was much below normal, partly because of the low prices in the preceding season and partly because of the exceptionally dry year. The total export of native cotton amounted only to roughly 4,500 bales instead of 10,000—11,000 bales which has been the figure generally in normal years recently. In spite of the very unfavourable season some twenty-four tons of the improved Ishan cotton seed was produced in the "special areas". Some four tons had to be reserved for free distribution again in those areas to maintain a supply of pure seed. The remainder was available for general sale, and was offered at a price of halfpenny per lb. Approximately sixteen tons were sold. The current season has been favourable for cotton in most districts, and it is therefore hoped that the production of this cotton this year will be considerable. The quality of the lint produced last year was not so good as the very small quantities previously produced, but it is believed that this was very largely due to the abnormally unfavoured season. It is understood that the British Cotton Growing Association will offer a premium of threefarthings per lb. of seed cotton above the price of ordinary native cotton this year, which is believed to represent approximately the true commercial difference at present.

59. *Forestry*.—The area of Forest Reserves has been increased by 2,316.59 square miles making a total of 935,359 square miles. In addition 3,385 square miles are awaiting settlement or preliminary proclamation while over 2,000 square miles await initial inspection. The appointment of an experienced officer of the Administrative Service as a Forest Settlement Officer has enabled the settlement of the proposed Reserves of the Calabar Province to be taken up at last; this work, which has been held up for many years, is now being carried out entirely by officers on special duty and is proceeding apace.

60. A slight improvement in the demand for mahogany and other meliaceous species manifested itself towards the end of the year. The demand for logs of the first quality has always been good and seems to be spreading somewhat to logs of less fine quality and dimensions. Of the secondary timbers "obeche" or "arere" (*Triplochylon* spp.) was in good demand throughout the year except during the last month when a slight falling off was apparent.

61. Generally, in view of the firm prices prevailing for first quality mahogany, etc., more activities have resulted in the matter of timber concession areas; this particularly applies to the Eastern Provinces where many applications for new areas have been received. Revenue on the whole has shown a slight increase: timber concessions to the number of ninety-six are now being worked.

62. There has been but little demand for rubber and other minor forest produce; efforts are now being made to encourage the

trade in shea nuts and in gum arabic as well as in many of the other forest products, the exploitation of which has not yet been put on a sound basis. In connection with the latter industry a Forestry Officer, having completed a tour of investigation throughout the gum-producing areas in Anglo-Egyptian Soudan, has been stationed at Maiduguri and is investigating the gum arabic industry in this country with a view to developing trade and general interest in this commodity.

63. The total area of plantations now exceeds 4,360 acres. These plantations have reached something more than the experimental stage and generally throughout are showing every sign of success. In many parts of the country they will prove an immensely valuable asset to the local communities and to Government. *Taungya* or *chena* plantations are being experimented with systematically and have proved successful at Sapoba and at Enugu, particularly at the former station. The chaulmoogra oil plants, *Hydnocarpus wightiana* and *H. anthelmintica* have both been successfully established at Sapoba, and at Zaria the former shows great promise.

64. The two Specialists in Sylviculture returned from India and commenced work in this country.

65. Nursery and field sylvicultural research is being carried out under several different conditions of locality, e.g., in Rain Forest areas, in Deciduous Forest and in Savannah Forest. These investigations are chiefly in connection with native economic timber species and on such points as treatment of seeds to produce high percentages of germination, nursery treatment of seedlings, effects of light, shade, spacing, seed-grading, green manuring, etc. Several experiments with regard to the treatment necessary for production of young *iroko* have been carried out and it is now definitely established that the incidence of the *iroko* gall disease is largely a question of shade, both overhead and side, more particularly at certain times of the year. Field laboratories have also been started; in different parts of the country sample plots have been laid down, measurements have been properly placed on record and steps have been taken to ensure annual records being made. In the matter of obtaining natural regeneration, the programme of work in connection with the five sylvicultural systems in adjacent and similar blocks at Sapoba was effectively carried out. In all cases except one results have been highly satisfactory.

66. In the Udi Reserve, operations have been undertaken with a view to arresting the vast amount of erosion which is going on there. An area has been ridged and ditched parallel to the lines of contour, several dams have been constructed and ravine sides broken down and made less steep. The work was carried out at a comparatively low cost and results so far are most promising.

67. Specialists in forest utilisation and in timber seasoning, etc., were appointed during the year under review. In the past little attention has been paid to seasoning and in consequence much local timber has been utilised in the green state. This has resulted in many of the indigenous timbers getting a "bad name" and in their being substituted by "pitch pine" and

other coniferous soft-woods, large quantities of which are imported annually into Nigeria for constructional purposes. It is proposed to erect seasoning sheds at Ijora to investigate local timbers thoroughly and in this way they will in time replace much of the imported material; for there is little doubt that the Nigerian soft-woods are second-to-none in quality if they are properly seasoned; at the same time it must be remembered that unseasoned timber such as has been used in the past cannot be expected to compare with seasoned material whether the latter is home-grown or imported. The total annual value of imported timber is £625,000 so that the importance of this line of investigation is obvious.

68. *Mining*.—The tin mining industry continues to progress, for the output during the year amounted to approximately 13,000 tons, or some 1,000 tons over that for 1927.

69. This may be considered highly satisfactory under the circumstances, as the price of tin, which had been steadily declining since the early part of last year, fell to £206 in July, the lowest price recorded since 1923. At this figure only a few of the companies could carry on profitably and there was in consequence considerable anxiety among producers on the minesfield.

70. With a view to assisting the mining community, the labour obligations were not enforced, and this voluntary action on the part of Government was of great value. Even with this help, however, the situation became so acute that representations were made to Government for concessions to be granted in the event of the price of tin falling below £200. Fortunately, it was not found necessary to take this step, as the price hardened and continued to rise until now it stands at a reasonable figure, though still much below that ruling twelve months ago.

71. In order to afford the Survey Department the opportunity for increasing the number of fixed points in the central portion of the Minesfield, the Plateau and Bauchi Provinces were closed to prospecting over a period of six months commencing on April 1st, the rainy season being chosen for this purpose as it involved less interference to prospecting than would otherwise have been the case.

72. As a result of the extra facilities thus afforded it will now be possible to locate applications for mining areas with greater rapidity than was previously possible, and it is hoped that this will lead to a much needed speeding-up in the grant of titles.

73. The decentralisation of the Mines Department, which was sanctioned towards the end of 1927, is now in operation, the Minesfield for this purpose being divided into four main districts, namely:—Northern, Bauchi, Jos and Ropp.

74. For the officers in charge of these districts temporary quarters have been erected at Liruwe-n-Kano and Toro, while permanent quarters have been built at Jos and Ropp; the first three have been in use for some time, but the Ropp quarters are still in process of construction.

75. In pursuance of the policy of decentralisation, a Mines Section was added in July to the Provincial Office at Bauchi for the purpose of dealing with applications for mining titles in that Province, and is being run on the same lines as that for the Plateau Province at Jos.

IV.—TRADE AND COMMERCE.

76. *Trade*.—The total value of the trade of Nigeria (including specie) during the year was as follows:—

					£
Import	...	...	...	...	16,336,482.
Export	...	...	...	...	17,171,507.
					£33,507,989.

an increase of £1,502,395 on the trade of the previous year. The value of the transit trade (*i.e.*, goods passing through the inland waters of Nigeria to and from French territory) was £107,587 as compared with £19,693; an increase of £87,894 sterling on the previous year.

77. Commercial imports, excluding specie, were valued at £13,728,184 an increase of over eleven *per cent.* compared with the previous year, while commercial exports at £17,034,880 showed an increase of over eight *per cent.* compared with the previous year. Imports of specie amounted to £906,261 compared with £1,226,644 in the previous year, whereas exports at £131,568 showed a decrease of approximately eighty *per cent.* on the previous year.

78. The United Kingdom accounted for 56.2 *per cent.* of the total trade compared with 53.5 *per cent.* for the previous year, imports at 69.5 *per cent.* showing an increase of 7.5 *per cent.* and exports at 43.4 *per cent.* a decline of 2.2 *per cent.* The United States of America with 10.2 *per cent.* of the trade showed an increase of .2 *per cent.* but Germany with 16.6 *per cent.* showed an increase of 1.1 *per cent.* With the exception of the Colonies in British West Africa there is no trade with any part of the British Empire except through the United Kingdom and to a small extent with Canada through the United States of America.

79. The following comparative statement shows the general position with regard to trade for each of the last six years:—

Commercial and Government.		1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Imports (exclusive of Specie)	...	10,271,066	10,948,309	14,783,209	12,761,129	14,437,993	15,430,221
Exports (exclusive of Specie)	...	10,885,136	14,460,930	16,962,995	16,681,310	15,674,440	17,039,939
Total	...	21,156,202	25,409,239	31,746,204	29,442,439	30,112,433	32,470,160
Imports of Specie	...	1,490,786	1,973,028	1,495,140	836,351	1,226,644	906,261
Exports of Specie	...	819,876	577,147	407,166	658,308	666,517	131,568
Total	...	2,310,662	2,550,175	1,902,306	1,494,659	1,893,161	1,037,829
Gross Total	...	23,466,864	27,959,414	33,648,510	30,937,098	32,005,594	33,507,989

1928. Parcels by parcels post not included.

80. As regards the import trade the bulk consists of only a few articles which, it is perhaps unnecessary to say, are consumed in large quantities. The cigarette trade has now reached a very high point, and it may safely be assumed that it will expand. The quantity imported last year, expressed in terms of tins each containing fifty cigarettes, was over 6,000,000 tins and is slightly greater than that imported in 1927. Another article which is consumed in large quantities is unmanufactured tobacco, the imports of which showed a slight decrease on last year. The quantity imported was approximately 5,000,000 lb. and this in spite of the trade in cigarettes. As regards spirits the principal item, that of gin, is a large revenue-producing one and is heavily taxed. The quantity imported during last year fell short of that of the previous year by seven *per cent.* Unfortunately these three articles are admitted into the colonies on Nigeria's borders at a much lower rate of duty and the incentive to smuggling is now so great that it is feared that substantial quantities are being illicitly imported, notwithstanding the efforts made to prevent that traffic. Cotton piece goods showed a fair increase, and it will come as no surprise to find that motor spirit exceeded four and a half millions of gallons. Kerosene, too, showed a substantial increase which can only be attributed to a general improvement in trade due to the opening of markets made accessible by new railways and roads. The importation of salt remained about the same, but kola nuts showed a decrease, the explanation being that this article is being produced locally in increasing quantities.

81. In the export trade also the articles dealt with in large quantities are few in number, and the following return showing the quantity and value exported during the last five years will be of interest:—

Palm Oil.				Palm Kernels.			
		Quantity	Value			Quantity.	Value.
		Tons.	£			Tons.	£
1924 ...	...	127,083	3,944,340	252,847	...	4,461,482	...
1925 ...	...	128,113	4,166,096	272,925	...	4,937,450	...
1926 ...	...	113,267	3,616,159	249,100	...	4,440,452	...
1927 ...	...	113,240	3,374,550	257,206	...	4,438,886	...
1928 ...	...	127,110	3,816,653	246,537	...	4,562,105	...

Groundnuts.				Cocoa.			
		Quantity.	Value.			Quantity.	Value.
		Tons.	£			Tons.	£
1924 ...	...	78,266	1,461,448	37,204	...	980,402	...
1925 ...	...	127,226	2,394,251	44,705	...	1,483,764	...
1926 ...	...	126,799	2,342,739	39,099	...	1,363,016	...
1927 ...	...	90,773	1,629,542	39,210	...	1,998,679	...
1928 ...	...	103,162	1,650,134	49,209	...	2,309,931	...

Cotton Lint.			Tin.	
	Quantity. Cwts.	Value. £	Quantity. Tons.	Value. £
1924 ...	92,770	762,427	8,852	1,548,040
1925 ...	132,724	797,463	9,293	1,737,578
1926 ...	179,315	1,182,050	10,562	2,217,046
1927 ...	99,546	331,086	10,926	2,287,327
1928 ...	74,957	379,490	14,030	2,158,904

82. The increase in the quantities of palm oil, cocoa and groundnuts exported was quite substantial, and indicates general stability in trade. The decrease in palm kernels is not a serious one and will no doubt adjust itself before long, but the exports of cotton lint showed a further decrease the reasons for which are that planting in the northern areas was greatly reduced in 1927 to enable the food shortage to be recovered, while in southern areas the reduction was the result of very low prices paid in 1926-1927. In addition, the latter crop was affected by exceptionally dry weather, but considerable improvement is anticipated in both parts in the 1928 crop which will be exported in 1929.

83. Reports received from districts show that prices paid for produce fluctuated considerably. For palm oil the average for the year worked out at £22 13s. the ton, and for palm kernels £15 4s. the ton. Cocoa prices ranged from £29 to £53 the ton. The average for groundnuts was £12 7s. the ton.

The tin industry continues to flourish and there is yet another "record" in the shipments for last year. The same can be said of the trade in hides and skins, the state of which is shown in the following comparative table:—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Cattle hides lb. ...	6,256,489	8,552,518	12,524,961
Sheep Skins „ ...	665,426	637,818	1,059,649
Goat Skins „ ...	3,628,248	3,202,343	4,756,984

84. *Shipping.*—Regular mail, passenger and cargo services were maintained throughout the year between the United Kingdom and Nigerian ports, and also between Continental and American ports and Nigeria. Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company, Limited, hold the bulk of the shipping, but many other firms run regular services, amongst them being the American Barber West Africa Line, John Holt and Company (Liverpool), Limited, African and Eastern Trade Corporation Limited, Holland West Africa Line, Woermann Linie and allied Companies, Chargeurs Reunis French Steamship Line, Frassinetti Fabre Line, Roma Società di Navigazione, and Italian West Africa (Congo) Line—Navigazione Libera Triestina. The number of vessels which enter and clear at the various ports continues to increase year by year, and foreign tonnage is fast approximating British tonnage.

Year.	ENTERED.				Total.	
	British.		Foreign.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1925 ...	320	813,818	210	521,907	530	1,335,725
1926 ...	339	879,405	277	658,777	616	1,538,182
1927 ...	394	960,354	351	740,426	745	1,700,780
1928 ...	438	1,030,256	553	978,917	1,041	2,009,173

Year.	CLEARED.				Total.	
	British.		Foreign.			
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
1925 ...	317	802,861	204	516,415	521	1,319,276
1926 ...	350	908,012	274	649,921	624	1,557,933
1927 ...	387	944,160	345	722,373	732	1,666,533
1928 ...	484	988,233	536	937,551	1,020	1,925,784

The tonnage of cargo inwards has reached a high level as compared with previous years, and that of cargo outwards is recovering.

Year.	TONNAGE OF CARGO.					
	INWARDS.			OUTWARDS.		
	British.	Foreign.	Total.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1925 ...	355,242	74,205	429,447	552,082	208,561	760,643
1926 ...	372,060	78,965	451,025	527,830	210,314	738,144
1927 ...	445,791	106,225	552,016	441,033	222,405	663,438
1928 ...	508,479	109,318	617,797	413,521	294,089	707,610

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

85. *General.*—The Central Road Board was abolished towards the end of the year and a Communications Board was created in its place. It is hoped by this means to ensure a proper co-ordination of development proposals of all classes of communications. The Board includes the two Lieutenant-Governors and the heads of the Marine, Railway and Public Works Departments and will advise the Government on arterial communication by road, rail, water and air.

A Ports Advisory Committee, with a Sub-Committee at Port Harcourt, has been set up to advise His Excellency on all matters pertaining to shipping and navigation within the two ports, its functions being purely advisory. The Committee consists of the Chief Secretary (Chairman), the Heads of the Departments of

Marine, Lands, Customs and Railway, with the Port Engineer, and four unofficial members representing commercial interests.

86. *Harbours, Creeks and Rivers*.—During 1928 navigable conditions on Lagos Bar and in the entrance channels remained satisfactory, and showed little change. The official bar draught of twenty-five feet was maintained throughout the year though only one vessel took advantage of this draught. The usual maintenance work on the moles has been carried out by the Harbour Works Department, and the West Training Bank has been extended by nineteen feet. *The Lady Clifford* has been employed dredging on the Eastern Spit when conditions were favourable and in the Commodore, Bruce, and Pool Channels at other times. Work on the Eastern Spit was seriously hampered by an accident to this vessel's star-board windlass which was out of commission for several months until a new one could be obtained from England. Certain changes have taken place in the contour of the Eastern Spit due to the extension of the training bank, but as conditions are, dredging is still essential to maintain a safe navigable channel. Inside the harbour, dredging operations have been carried out by the *Sandgrouse*, *Child*, *Queen Mary* and *Mole*, as a result of which all the advertised draughts have been adequately maintained. The resultant spoil has been utilised in connection with the various reclamation schemes in progress in the vicinity of the harbour, viz., alongside the Ebute Metta-Apapa railway track, the Alakoro embayment and on Iddo Island. *The Lady Thomson* arrived from England on January 17th and successfully carried out her acceptance trials pumping from the site in Ebute Metta Creek. The original *Lady Combe* was lost on the outward voyage but has been replaced by a similar new vessel, which arrived in Lagos on September 27th. After her acceptance trials have been completed it is proposed to send her, accompanied by the *Romulus*, *Ira* and three barges, to Port Harcourt to engage in the projected reclamation programme at that port. A certain amount of experimental dredging was undertaken on Bonny Bar by the dredger *Mole*, with a view to determining the nature of the spoil encountered there. Dredging of the Oyster Bank at Apapa was also dealt with in the course of extending the twenty-five foot channel upstream to the proposed site of the new petroleum jetty.

87. The second instalment of ocean wharfage, completed in 1927, has proved a great asset to Port Harcourt, and will be even more so when the shed behind this wharf is completed and put into operation. This is expected to take place about the end of the year. The new coal bunker is complete and awaits electric power to work the conveyor. The old canoe berthage is in course of replacement by a new one, and the building of a barge wharf, 395 feet in length, has been commenced.

88. Regular quarterly surveys of the Lagos Bar and Entrance Channel have been carried out and plotted in conjunction with those made by the Harbour Works Department, soundings by the latter being taken between the moles only. A survey of Forcados Bar showed little change, but indicated that there were possibilities of the old channel to the southward breaking out again, and giving a better and considerably shorter crossing.

89. A larger waterway clearing programme than usual has again been dealt with during the year. The annual clearance

of the mail launch routes from Lagos to Sapele and Forcados has been done, and the creeks throughout the Delta dealt with as found necessary. Clearing parties have also been employed on the following waterways:—

The Oluwa River and approaches to Agbabu, the terminus of a new road to Ondo.

The Lower Niger River and its tributaries including the Patani, Oguda, Omerun, Anambra, N'doni and Kiagbode Creeks.

The Ethiopie River.

The Benue River.

The Imo and Orashie Rivers.

The Qua Ibo and Cross Rivers with the latter's tributary creeks the Ikang, Ikpa, Enyong, Ikporu and Bansara.

The Mungo and Meme Rivers in the Cameroons Province.

The Awuru Rapids on the River Niger north of Bussa.

The work on the Awuru Rapids consisted of blasting rocky obstructions to navigation, and has resulted in a gratifying and pronounced increase in the volume of water-borne canoe traffic on the Niger, between Jebba and the north. Experimental bandalling operations were attempted at the Onya Crossing on the Lower Niger. The results were inconclusive but were not altogether successful. However, a minimum depth of five feet was maintained during the low river which is all that could be expected.

90. The coastal buoys and those marking navigable channels in the harbours and estuaries have been maintained in an efficient condition during the year, no instance having occurred of any buoy being reported as out of position. There are now sixty-seven buoys and fourteen beacons maintained by the Marine Department as aids to navigation. In addition to these, there are three long-range light buoys, and one of a smaller type. The last-named light buoy replaced the Lagos Fairway Buoy on April 1st and has been greatly appreciated by ship-masters. The new buoyage vessel *Dayspring* arrived in the Colony on the 25th August and has proved a great asset in handling the heavy light buoys and moorings now in use on the Nigerian coast.

91. The Nigerian coast lights, including those in the British Cameroons, have been efficiently maintained and the lighthouses kept in good order. The new Cape Debundscha light was put into operation in March. Some slight difficulty has been experienced with the flashing mechanism at both Cape Nachtigal and Debundscha lighthouses. These lights are automatic and special adjustments to suit the peculiar climate of the Cameroons seem to be necessary.

92. The following mail and transport services have been maintained during the year by Government craft on the routes mentioned:—

Lagos to Sapele and Forcados, connecting with the outward and homeward mail steamers.

Port Harcourt to Opobo.

Port Harcourt to Degema and Brass.

Itu to Ikem (in the dry season only).

The latter service is run in conjunction with Messrs Elder Dempster and Company, who maintain the service during the

high water season on the Cross River. The Port Harcourt-Brass and Port Harcourt-Opobo services are run at a loss, but are maintained in the effort to develop trade in those ports. The transport of Udi coal for Government Departments from Port Harcourt to Lagos, and from Port Harcourt to Forcados, Calabar, and Victoria, has been maintained during the year and has satisfactorily met all demands. The reduced coal requirements of the Nigerian Railway at Iddo have made it possible to lay up one of the Government colliers for some months during which extensive repairs were carried out. The Lagos-Apapa ferry service has run continuously since its commencement in September, 1925, and has lately shown a remarkable increase in the number of passengers carried. The average monthly number of passengers carried in the year 1926 was 44,240. This average rose to 56,890 per month in 1927, and in the year under review, 66,442 passengers were carried in January, 88,948 in May, 99,197 in August, and over 100,000 in October. This latter figure represents an average of nearly 4,000 passengers for each running day.

93. The only serious shipping casualties during 1928 were—

1. The stranding of s.s. *Palma* on the outer reef at the entrance to Calabar River on March 9th. She was subsequently brought to Lagos and repaired on the Marine floating dock:
2. The loss of Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's branch steamer s.s. *Oshogbo* in July: and
3. The stranding and subsequent sinking, after refloating, of the German steamer *Gustav Schindler* at Port Harcourt in September.

94. H.M.S. *Ramillies* paid an experimental visit to tropical waters in 1928, and lay outside Lagos Harbour from the 2nd to the 12th of January.

95. Sir Alan Cobham, on his round Africa flight, visited Lagos from the 11th to the 13th of April, and during that period his flying boat was hoisted out of the water and repaired at Apapa dockyard.

96. *Railways*.—The railway is divided into two routes. The western, with its terminus at Apapa and Iddo, comprises a main line from Lagos (Apapa and Iddo Stations) to Kano, a distance of 705 miles from the coast, through the important towns of Abeokuta (served by Lafenwa station on the main line), Ibadan, Ilorin, Oshogbo, Minna, Kaduna, Zaria; a branch line connects Zaria with Jos which is the junction for the line from Port Harcourt. The gauge of the Zaria-Jos branch is two feet six inches, that of the remainder of the line three feet six inches. Baro on the Niger River is served by a line (111 miles) branching from the main line at Minna, and forms a port for import and export traffic. The eastern route, running from Port Harcourt on the Bonny Estuary, effects a junction with the western line at Kaduna a distance of 566 miles from Port Harcourt. From Kafanchan a connecting line runs to Jos, an important centre in connection with the Tin Mining Industry. Jos, the centre of the industry, is now brought within 521 miles of the coast at Port Harcourt as compared with a distance of 751 miles *via* Zaria to Lagos. The immediate result of the opening of this route has been to reduce the price of coal delivered at Bukuru from Enugu to forty shillings and five pence per ton against eighty-nine shillings *via* Zaria and the

Bauchi light railway and also to effect large reductions in the rail freight on tin, machinery, provisions, etc. The Up Boat Express now works through to Jos *via* Kaduna and Kafanchan, a distance of 740 miles as compared with the old route of 751 miles, the time occupied being reduced by two and a half hours. Enugu station, which serves the coal fields, is situated 151 miles from Port Harcourt.

97. A broad gauge branch line from Zaria to Kaura-Namoda is now under construction, approximately 144 miles in the direction of Sokoto; railhead had reached eighty-one miles from Zaria in December. This line will traverse a well-populated area with great possibilities for development, and in January 1929, the section between Zaria and Gusau will be open for traffic. An extension is also under construction from Kano towards N'Guru (142 miles); railhead had reached seventy-six miles at the end of December; a branch line is also being built from Ifo-Idogo (24 miles); it is expected that these two branches will be open for traffic about July, 1929.

98. The construction of the Benue Bridge by the contractors, Messrs. Sir William Arrol and Company, was commenced early in the year. The bridge will have thirteen spans and a total length of 2,584 feet. It will take both rail and road traffic. Four years will probably be occupied in completing the contract.

99. The gross earnings during the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, were £2,435,411, thus exceeding the highest figure recorded in the history of the railway by £39,400, and the gross working expenditure £1,509,906, making the net receipt £925,505. The total number of passengers carried was 2,830,965, an increase of 209,533 over the number carried the previous year, and the tonnage of goods and minerals hauled was 989,403 tons, an increase of 41,099 tons over the previous year's tonnage.

100. The estimated revenue for the calendar year is placed at £2,438,684 and the approximate expenditure at £2,489,335 which includes contribution to Renewals Fund, interest charges and the cost of departmental services, pensions, etc.

101. There are now 178 stations open for traffic:—

Western Division	...	...	...	...	70
Northern Division	...	...	...	...	47
Eastern Division	...	...	...	...	61

178

102. The Transportation Department is under the control of the Superintendent of the Line, with headquarters at Ebute Metta (a suburb of Lagos). He is assisted by two Assistant Superintendents of the Line, one for traffic operation and commercial matters, and one for locomotive working. The line is divided into three divisions, each in charge of a Divisional Superintendent, assisted by Assistant Divisional Superintendents as under:—

Western Division.—Iddo, Apapa to Zungeru.

Northern Division.—North of Zungeru to Kano (including Baro Branch and also the Bauchi Light Railway).

Eastern Division.—Port Harcourt to Jos and Kaduna Junction.

103. A Motor Transport Service is running in the Zaria and Sokoto Provinces, mainly between Zaria and Gusau. This service will move further afield as the branch line opens operations between Zaria and Gusau.

104. *Roads and Bridges.*—The mileage of roads maintained by the Public Works Department in 1928 amounts to over 3,300. Maintenance has been kept up to a fair standard, having regard to available staff and funds provided; tar metalling of some of the more important roads has been undertaken. In view of the increased and increasing motor traffic, a much improved standard of maintenance has become necessary. Metalling of the Lagos-Abeokuta road has been completed and work of a similar nature on the Ibadan-Ife road is in hand. With the exception of the Oshun River Bridge all bridges between Ibadan and Ilesha have been reconstructed. Work at the Oshun River has begun; when complete all bridges on this road will carry the four 4-ton axle loads adopted as the standard heavy load for bridges on the main roads of Nigeria. The extensive bridging over the Osse and Owan Rivers on the Oshogbo-Benin road is also under reconstruction. Numerous other bridges on various routes have been or are being reconstructed as traffic over them justifies expenditure.

105. Native Administrations maintain a large mileage of roads, either dry or all-season, depending on the country traversed. Complete information as to routes and availability will shortly be published in a Communications Map and Guide.

106. Construction is complete on the following roads; mileage being given in brackets:—Oshogbo-Ede Road (9), Share-Jebba Road (31) and Funtua-Yashli Road (76).

The Rigachikun-Jos, Bida-Zungeru, Abakaliki-Ogoja, and Ikom-Mamfe-Bamenda Roads are in hand. The last-named will form an important link for trade and administrative purposes between Nigeria and the Mandated Areas and will eventually be joined, at Bansara, to the Western road system from Ibadan, through Onitsha, Enugu and Abakaliki.

107. Wudil Bridge over the Challowa River in Kano Province was completed and formally opened in August, 1928. Work on the Misau and Imo River Bridges is in hand.

108. A crossing of the Niger River above Jebba is under investigation to determine the relative values of bridging or of a ferry service. It may prove that the most satisfactory line for the principal road to the north will be over the Niger River by way of Garafini instead of *via* Jebba. The completion of a through road route to the north is affected by the need for constructing roads of more immediate and local importance. It is even now possible, though with some difficulty, to motor from Lagos to the Northern Provinces in the dry season.

109. Some 500 miles of road survey and location has been carried out by the Public Works Department during the year and special investigations have been carried out at important bridge sites.

110. *Posts and Telegraphs.*—There has been a marked increase in the services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department during the year 1928. Telephone cash revenue has increased by sixteen *per cent.*; paid telegraph revenue by nine *per cent.* and telegraph

traffic by fifteen *per cent.* The reduction in the rates of commission on money orders as from 1st November, 1927, resulted in an increase of 207 *per cent.* in money order business in the twelve months ending 31st October, 1928, though this increase has, to some extent, affected postal order business. The policy of speeding up mail services by the substitution of motor for runner or cyclist services was continued whenever possible. The alteration in Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's Time Table for their Lagos Ocean Express service involved the reorganisation of the whole internal mail services of Nigeria. As from the 4th November the main channels of telegraphic communication were reorganised to provide alternative routes and additional outlets for traffic. The main transmitting station of the Northern Provinces was transferred from Minna to Kaduna, and that in the Eastern Provinces from Onitsha to Enugu; in addition to which a new transmitting station was opened at Oshogbo. These alterations had a marked effect in speeding up traffic from the Northern and Eastern Provinces although the change necessitated additional staff and an extra transmission. Postal and Telegraph offices were opened at Oturkpo, Nassarawa, Duchi-n-Wai, Funtua, Gusau and Kaura Namoda in the Northern Provinces. A Post Office was opened at Okitipupa, and postal agencies at Ejirin, Abagi, Kabba and Maidobi.

111. New Posts and Telegraphs Offices were occupied during the year at Oshogbo and Kaduna, and a new Telegraph Office at Enugu.

112. New telephone exchanges were opened at Calabar, Enugu, Victoria, Buea and Tiko, the telephone system in the British Cameroons being entirely reconstructed. The construction of the first long-distance telephone trunk line between Lagos and Ibadan has made satisfactory progress and will be open for traffic in April, 1929. Main Railway stations between Port Harcourt and Enugu are being brought into direct telephonic communication with a Railway Traffic controller; the work will be completed in 1929. The telegraph lines to Gusau and Kaura Namoda and Kano-Hadeija are completed and a start has also been made on the Ifo-Idogo Extension.

113. The Rugby Press Wireless receiving apparatus at Lagos and Kaduna worked successfully throughout the year and approval has been given for short wave experimental work to commence next year.

114. *Savings Bank.*—A Government Savings Bank is worked and controlled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department and during the year Savings Bank facilities were extended to six more Post Offices. There are now thirty-six Savings Bank Post Offices. The total amount on deposit has increased by about eight *per cent.* during the year, the average deposit being about £2 the same as last year, while the average withdrawal has decreased from £3 to £2 15s.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

115. *Legislation.*—The Coins Ordinance, 1928, (No. 6 of 1928) provides for the proper control of the export from, the import into and the circulation within, Nigeria of coins and notes.

116. The Intestate Estates Ordinance, 1928, (No. 21 of 1928) provides for the appointment of a Curator of Intestate Estates and of his necessary agents and prescribes their powers and duties. The Ordinance generally makes better provision for the administration of the estates of intestates.

117. The Public Trustee Ordinance, 1928 (No. 22 of 1928) provides for the appointment of a Public Trustee and prescribes his powers and duties.

118. The European Reserve Force Ordinance, 1928, (No. 24 of 1928) provides for the establishment, organisation and government of a European Reserve Force of Nigeria.

119. The Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance, 1928 (No. 30 of 1928) provides for the registration in Nigeria of industrial designs which have been registered in the United Kingdom.

120. The Post Office Ordinance, 1928 (No. 31 of 1928) repeals Chapters 41 and 42 of the Laws of Nigeria and substitutes other provisions giving wider and clearer provisions corresponding to the Strait Settlements Post Office Ordinance, 1923 (No. 23 of 1923) and generally bringing Nigerian Post Office and Telegraph law into conformity with modern enactments.

121. The Lagos Town Planning Ordinance, 1928 (No. 45 of 1928) provides for the replanning, improvement and development of Lagos with particular reference to housing accommodation, means of communication and insanitary and congested areas.

122. *Police*.—In the Northern Provinces, with the exception of the patrols mentioned below, the Force has been occupied in townships with the duties of a civil police force, namely the prevention and detection of crime, traffic control, beats and fire brigade duties, and, in the provinces, with the provision of guards, escorts and patrols when necessary.

Patrols in which the police have been engaged are as follows :—

Benue Province	...	...	...	1
Adamawa Province	...	...	...	1 (Mumuye).

123. There are now two vacancies in the establishment of European Officers of the Force. The rank and file have been kept almost at full strength. Recruits pass through a rigorous training at the Central Recruits depot before being drafted to detachments for duty. Permanent buildings have been completed during the year at Lokoja.

124. The Railway Police Detachment has been concerned purely with police duty affecting the railway. The necessity for its existence is well demonstrated not only by the results achieved, but also by the demands of the Railway Authorities.

125. The incidence of crime has been normal throughout the year. It is satisfactory to note an appreciable decrease in the number of offences against property in townships and on the railway.

126. In the Southern Provinces the state of crime has been normal during the year and nothing of outstanding importance in this respect has occurred.

127. The Preventive Services on the Western and Eastern Frontiers continue to do excellent work in the prevention and detection of smuggling and the results shown during the year

have been very satisfactory. The Preventive Service on the Eastern Frontier at present patrols from Tiko to Fontem; but it is considered necessary to extend the chain of preventive posts up to Bamenda and a Customs Station has been opened at Santos on the main road from the Frontier to Bamenda. The distance requiring supervision on this Frontier from Santos to the sea is too great to be supervised by one European Officer and the number of preventive posts required too many to be manned by the existing personnel. The hilly nature of the country, the large expanse of water in the Mungo River and the numerous small creeks near the coast line afford considerable facilities to smugglers and render the work of the police correspondingly arduous. It has therefore been found necessary to ask for provision for an increase of personnel for this service to be included in the Estimates for the next financial year. It is feared that smugglers finding their attempts to smuggle over the land frontier have been effectively frustrated by the Preventive Police, are now trying to smuggle goods across the open sea into the Calabar Province. Several seizures have been made recently and it is hoped that the measures which are now being adopted by the police will make this form of smuggling equally unprofitable.

128. An increase of 500 rank and file was authorised in 1927, as a temporary precautionary measure, in view of the approaching institution of taxation in the Southern Provinces, and these were distributed throughout the untaxed Provinces to form Provincial Reserves so that a mobile body of men should be in readiness should any emergency arise. This force was intended to be of a purely temporary nature, opportunity being taken to absorb the personnel as rapidly as possible as vacancies occurred in the regular establishment. In pursuance of this policy the strength of the Special Police was reduced to 440 on the 1st April, 1928, and on the 1st December, 1928, the number had been further reduced to 342.

129. During the year a Motor Traffic Branch was inaugurated consisting of four Superintendents and ten corporals to control the furious and dangerous driving of lorries on the main roads and to enforce the regulations with regard to the regularity of licences, and overloading (either with goods or passengers). These men were put through a thorough course of training and eventually commenced their duties in the month of August. Three main groups, each under a Superintendent of Police, were formed, namely:—

Group I.—Lagos to Ilugun in the Abeokuta Province.

Group II.—Ado to Ifo in the Ondo Province.

Group III.—Onitsha to Enugu and Port Harcourt in the Onitsha and Owerri Provinces.

Each Superintendent has a certain number of corporals stationed at various places in his group but owing to shortage of staff no Superintendent has yet been posted in charge of Group II. The corporals are provided with motor cycles and are thus able to patrol the roads and when necessary pursue offending motor vehicles which have declined to stop when called upon to do so. The institution of this branch of the Force, which is the first instalment of a general scheme intended to cover all the main roads in the Southern Provinces, has had a

salutary effect on the evils connected with the growth of motor traffic along those roads in the Southern Provinces which are patrolled. It is not intended, at present, to proceed with any further instalment of the general scheme.

130. During the year it was found necessary to furnish several escorts to Administrative Officers.

131. In January, one European Officer and thirty rank and file were despatched as an escort to the District Officer, Awka, in the Onitsha Province, where a certain amount of unrest existed.

132. In February a European Officer and twenty rank and file proceeded to Awgu, Onitsha Province, as an escort to the District Officer during the trial of twenty-two persons for holding unlawful meetings and conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace.

133. In February the detachment at Nsukka, Onitsha Province, was strengthened by ten men on account of the unrest in the Benue Province, as it was thought that unwelcome persons from that province might attempt to enter the Nsukka Division.

134. In June and July anti-tax agitation took place in the Owo Division of the Ondo Province. An escort of three European Officers and eighty rank and file proceeded there by motor transport and effected certain arrests. The prompt arrival of the escort had a quietening effect on the district.

135. In July one European Officer and twenty-five rank and file were sent as an escort to the District Officer, Obubra, Ogoja Province, in connection with the investigation of certain criminal cases.

136. In July an escort of one European Officer and thirty rank and file accompanied the District Officer to Obodo, Warri Province, where anti-tax agitation was feared.

137. In September an escort of one European Officer and twenty rank and file accompanied the District Officer to Ogume in the Kwale Division of the Warri Province in connection with anti-tax agitation.

138. The Barracks for "A" Division at Oke Suna in Lagos were completed during the year and occupied, and work on the Apapa Barracks and Police Station is being continued. The office for the Senior Commissioner of Police in Lagos was completed and occupied in October. This office was constructed by the re-erection of one of the wards that had been removed from the old African Hospital in Lagos. The remainder of the Lagos building programme is at present in abeyance. No other permanent barracks for the police in the Southern Provinces have been erected during the year.

139. The Police Training Depot at Lagos continues to maintain a satisfactory rate of progress and improvement in the instruction and training of recruits. Probationary Inspectors, Cadet Inspectors and recruits undergo a course of training of not less than six months in police duties proper, as well as some of a more military character, to fit them to carry out efficiently the duties they are called upon to perform. All ranks are required to pass an oral or written examination before they are allowed to perform any police duty in public. After the course of training is complete, African officers and men continue to

attend frequent lectures delivered by European Officers on the subject of their duties. Refresher courses are also held at the Depot for trained men whenever possible. The Depot serves the needs of the Western Area and all Cadet Inspectors undergo their course of instruction there before performing any police duty outside. It is hoped at some future date to establish a similar depot at Enugu for the Eastern Area, but until this is formed the training of the men will continue to be carried out at the headquarters of each Province in that area. Owing to the necessity for the absorption of the Special Police into the regular establishment, previously referred to, and the consequent cessation of recruiting, it is not likely that it will be necessary to establish an Eastern Training Depot during the forthcoming financial year.

140. The Fire Station at Ebute Metta was completed during the year and the equipment and duties of the Railway Fire Brigade were taken over by the Lagos Fire Brigade. The Central Fire Station at Tinubu Square, Lagos, has been enlarged and is now capable of containing the additional motor fire engine and motor fire tender, while quarters for the Superintendent of the Fire Brigade have been constructed above the Fire Station. This Brigade is now considered adequate to cope with any ordinary fire which may occur in the Township of Lagos. The old Merryweather Fire Engine, which has been in use for many years, may, however, require extensive repairs and renewals in the near future.

141.—*Prisons.*—The daily average prison population in the Northern Provinces which remained much as it was during 1927 was 758 for last year and 740 for this year to date. Prisoners are principally employed on station labour as required by the Magistrate and the health authorities.

142. Proposals are on foot for the erection of new prison buildings at Makurdi and Ilorin.

143. At Kaduna Convict Prison the trades of boot-making and repairing, tailoring and cane furniture making are taught. Work of this sort, especially bootmaking and repairing, is undertaken for the general public, from whom there is a steady demand, owing to the fact that very few capable artificers are to be found in the Northern Provinces.

144. In the Southern Provinces good progress has been maintained in the re-building of the Port Harcourt and Enugu Convict Prisons. In the early part of the year a wall round the prison was commenced at Enugu and is already well advanced. As before, the manufacture of the bricks used in the new buildings, as well as the entire construction, is being carried out by convict labour.

145. The stone breaking industry, commenced in the Lagos prison in a small way during 1926, has continued to develop and in addition to supplying a useful form of hard labour is most profitable.

146. The complete output of wood furniture made in Lagos prison carpenter's shop has been handed over to the Public Works Department for issue to the new houses.

147. The discipline of the prisoners is much improved, though the usual difficulty is experienced in recruiting a suitable type of warder.

148. The daily average number of prisoners in the Southern Provinces for the period 1st January, 1928, to 31st October, 1928, was 7,052.71. The daily average for 1927 was 7,512.28.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

149. It is estimated that the total expenditure by the Public Works Department for the year ending March 31st, 1929, will be about £1,727,000 as compared with expenditure of £1,882,000 for the year ending March 31st 1928. This decrease is due to the limitation imposed on expenditure. Reimbursement and loan works are included.

Owing to development of roads, waterways and electrical plants, expenditure on such works is relatively greater than that on buildings as compared with former years.

150. *Water Supplies.*—The Ijebu Ode and Aba water supply schemes have been completed and are in operation. The Onitsha scheme is well in hand and will shortly be in operation. Lagos demand has almost reached full capacity of the filtration plant and investigations are in progress to ascertain the treatment of the raw water necessary to afford larger supplies.

151. Considerable progress has been made with Kaduna water supply scheme although the staff has been unduly affected by sickness and accidents.

152. Final investigations of the Challowa scheme for Kano water supply were made and work has commenced under the direction of the Consulting Engineers. Housing, road and rail transport facilities have been provided in advance of the arrival of constructional staff and materials. The Resident Engineer and staff arrived in December.

153. Schemes for water supply embracing twenty-eight towns in Nigeria were considered, but for financial reasons a part only of the programme of investigation is for the present to be undertaken. Included are schemes for Zaria, Jos, Port Harcourt, Calabar, Oshogbo, Abeokuta, Ogoja and Benin.

154. *Electric Light and Power.*—Consumption of electric current in Lagos during the year will show an increase of about twenty-seven *per cent.* over the previous year. A fresh basis for charges has been adopted which should lead to economic development of the scheme, by encouraging use of current at cheaper rates.

155. The Port Harcourt electric power supply is nearing completion. Plant and material for the Kaduna supply have been delivered and erection of the power station is in hand. Other schemes are under investigation.

156. *Building Works.*—Hospitals. The following have been completed:—European Hospital, Ibadan; African Hospital, Aba; Extensions African Hospital, Jos; Infectious Diseases Hospital, Enugu; African Hospital, Oshogbo; Extensions, African Hospital, Calabar. Progress on the African Hospital, Lagos, has been good; three ward blocks and the administrative block are nearing completion.

157. Work is in hand on the following:—Extensions to the European and African Hospitals, Kaduna; African

Hospital, Ijebu Ode; European and African Hospitals, Kano; General Hospital Abeokuta; African Hospital, Zaria; Infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba; and African Hospital, Maiduguri.

158. *Government Quarters*.—The 1926-27 programme of 135 quarters for Europeans and 303 for Africans, and the 1927-28 programme of sixty-one quarters for Europeans and ninety-five for Africans are nearing completion. The 1928-29 programme of sixty-two quarters for Europeans and seventy-nine for Africans is well in hand.

159. *Barracks*.—Police Barracks at Apapa have been completed, and Barracks at Forcados have been commenced. R.W.A.F.F. Barracks:—Work has been commenced on the Barracks at Ibadan and at Kaduna.

160. Work is in progress on the following:—Training School, Moor Plantation, Ibadan; Research Laboratory, Agricultural Department, Ibadan; Chemical Laboratory, Agricultural Department, Samaru, Zaria; Tsetse Investigation Laboratories, Gadau; Laboratory and Stock Farm, Vom; Governor's Residence, Kaduna; Secretariat Offices, Enugu; Medical Department and Administrator's Office, Lagos.

161. The Land Department Offices, Lagos, under construction by contract, are nearing completion.

162. Public Works carried out by contract during the year included the new African Hospital, four Government bungalows at Oshogbo, five Government bungalows at Abeokuta, the Land Office, Lagos, sections of the construction of the Lagos-Abeokuta Road, the Kuru-Kassa Road, and the Ibadan-Ife Road.

163. *Lagos Harbour*.—Navigable conditions, both inside and outside the harbour show general improvement, with the exception of one place at the south-west end of the Eastern spit.

The extension of the Training Bank has been temporarily suspended in order to observe the effect of intensive dredging at the south-west corner of the Eastern spit.

The necessary maintenance of the Moles and Training Bank has been carried out.

An extension of the East Mole at the north end in an upstream direction has been commenced.

164. The coaling and refitting berths for the Marine Department were completed during the year. A slipway for the Marine Department has been commenced.

165. A mooring berth for reclamation plant and a viaduct for the pipe line in Badagry Creek were put in hand and are nearing completion.

166. The new Depot for the Harbour Department at Apapa with offices, stores, shops, stone wharf, slipway and plant repair yard is well in hand.

167. The contract for the steelwork for the New Carter Bridge has been let. Preliminary work for the construction of the bridge is in hand. The new bridge will leave the mainland at a point slightly West of the present bridge and will extend to a point on the Island some 500 feet below, or West of the present Southern abutment.

168. The reclamation of the Alakoro embayment is proceeding.

169. The Aro Quarry has continued to supply the stone necessary for the Harbour Department, Railway, Public Works and other Departments and Firms.

170. *Railway Ports, Port Harcourt.*—The whole of the wharfage, including up and down stream landing stages, has been handed over to the Railway Department and is in full working.

171. No. 3 transit Shed, behind the second instalment of wharfage, 620 feet long by 90 feet wide has been completed.

172. The new coal belt conveyor plant, with 2,500 ton coal storage bunker and berth has been completed with the exception of fixing dynamos. These will be fixed as soon as electric power is available.

173. Progress on the retaining bank in connection with dredging of the southern extremity and reclamation to form traders' waterside plots at the northern extremity of the port has been good.

174. A commencement has been made with the construction of a reinforced concrete Canoe Berthage and Barge Wharf the former 190 feet and the latter 310 feet in length.

175. The question of the provision of a berth for loading palm oil in bulk has been given consideration.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

176. During the year there has been no outbreak of cerebro-spinal fever of any severity, only a few sporadic cases having been reported. Relapsing fever has also been infrequently in evidence, although an outbreak of this disease which commenced in the latter months of 1927 in Bornu Province did not finally terminate until April of this year. This epidemic however was of moderate dimensions and mild in type, causing but little loss of life. Another infectious disease which has happily been inconspicuous during 1928 is yellow fever. No European cases have been reported from any district and only one small outbreak amongst the African population has been notified. This occurred at Ife in Ondo Province early in the rainy season and was investigated by members of the Rockefeller Yellow Fever Commission who reported the disease to be of an apparently mild type. The Commission is still pursuing investigations on this disease and rigorous application of anti-stegomyia measures are being maintained throughout the country with gratifying results.

177. Outbreaks of smallpox have been reported from many areas both in Southern and Northern Provinces, but as in previous years epidemics in the North have been much more severe than those in the South. This fact is undoubtedly due to the influence of compulsory vaccination which is applied only to Southern Provinces and it may be reasonably anticipated that until this measure is extended throughout the Northern Provinces severe outbreaks of smallpox will continue to recur.

178. Plague continued in epidemic form in Lagos and despite vigorous enforcement of the measures advised by Sir Edward Thornton cases have been more numerous than in any

previous year, although, as is usual, on the appearance of the harmattan with consequent drop in humidity the number of cases of both human and rat infection has decreased. On the other hand the enforcement of those measures on the mainland has met with more gratifying results, only a mere handful of cases being notified in inland places. There seems little doubt that as regards Lagos, without the application of a radical replanning scheme embodying extensive clearing of existing congested areas, measures hitherto applied will fail to oust the disease from the island.

179. Influenza appeared in July and continued to be widespread throughout the country during the several following months. The disease was however of a mild form with few fatalities.

180. The work of the Tsetse Fly and Sleeping Sickness Investigation has been continued throughout the year with excellent progress. Field experiments including clearing, grass burning and exclusion of game have been extended, and investigation and treatment of cases in new foci have been carried out. The appointment of the four Sleeping Sickness Officers to the Tsetse Investigation has been fully justified, their work having made apparent hitherto unsuspected foci of the disease which are of such extent as to constitute a serious menace to the population of considerable tracts of the country. One of the Sleeping Sickness Officers is now being sent to the British Cameroons in order to investigate reported cases of this disease.

IX.--EDUCATION.

181. In the Northern Provinces the demand for education is growing steadily. As has been the case for some years, not all the requests for elementary schools made by various Native Administrations can be met, but whenever it has been possible to provide adequate native teachers new schools have been opened. The policy of refusing to open schools unless sufficient supervision by European officers of the Department can be given is continued.

Twelve new schools have been started. European staff has been slightly under strength throughout the year; on November 20th there was one vacancy for Superintendent of Education and one for Superintendent of Arts and Crafts. During the year five new Superintendents of Education and one Lady Superintendent of Education have been appointed and three Superintendents of Arts and Crafts. Of the three Superintendents of Arts and Crafts one is undergoing a course of Instruction in England.

One Superintendent of Education was permanently invalided, and one Superintendent of Arts and Crafts resigned.

182. The opening of two Mission Schools has been approved. That of four others was refused, owing to lack of adequate qualifications of the teachers.

183. Eight men trained at the Katsina College entered on their duties in six different Provinces. One of these, by

arrangement with the Ilorin Native Administration, has been appointed a teacher on the Training College Staff.

184. A Conference of the Department was held at Katsina in March.

185. A new syllabus of work for Crafts schools has been approved by Government and is now in force.

186. The question of the amalgamation of the two Departments of Education in the Northern and Southern Provinces is still under consideration.

187. In the Southern Provinces registration of teachers proceeded throughout the year, and the first Register of 6,500 names was published in August.

During the year, two schools have been compulsorily closed, and the preliminary warning notice resulted either in the voluntary closing of others, the e usually being in districts where it is difficult to provide European supervision, or in the necessary improvement in efficiency. Thirty new elementary schools have been opened.

188. Quarterly meetings of the Board and Text Book Committee have been held throughout the year. After a year's application of the New Education Code, the difficulties of the transition period have been more manifest. The problem has been to find a solution without weakening the Code or the principle underlying the Regulations. A considerable amount of raw material has been sent in to the Text Book Committee, some of which has been published in the Education Bulletin. Publication in vernaculars must await more definite advice with regard to the adoption of a common script. Large numbers of new text-books have been reviewed.

189. School Committees have functioned with varying, but perhaps increasing, success. A Mission Supervisor of Education is usually on several Committees, and it is impossible for him to attend all.

190. The two Government Training Colleges for Teachers have been completed, and will be opened early in 1929. It has been necessary to postpone further building, and the provision of more permanent and larger Government schools at certain Provincial and Divisional Headquarters has not been possible.

191. Elementary education is given in forty-three Government schools, and one Native Administration school in the Southern Provinces, and in fourteen Native Administration schools and six Government schools in the Cameroons. The number of Mission schools in which the standard of work and general efficiency justifies Government assistance is 253. Of this total eleven have been graded "A", six being girls' schools.

192. The new buildings at King's College have been taken over by the College to house additional pupils. Numbers have increased from twenty to fifty boarders, with a reduction from 110 to 100 day boys. Arrangements are being made to accommodate a total of 200 pupils in 1929. A nine months' tour to correspond with the College year has been adopted for the European Staff. By this means the necessity for increased personnel, for reliefs, will be avoided.

193. There is a considerable demand for secondary education which cannot be met, even in Government schools, until better trained teachers are available.

194. The Drill Instructor, appointed in 1927, has toured the Provinces throughout the year with marked beneficial results to this important side of education.

195. During the year two Principals of Training Colleges, one Mistress, Government Secondary School for Girls (Lagos), and thirteen Superintendents have been appointed. The post of Deputy Director has not been filled.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

196. *Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.*—In the Northern Provinces all land is under the control and subject to the disposition of the Governor to be administered for the use and common benefit of the natives. In the Southern Provinces land is not at the disposal of the Governor in the same way, but land may not be leased to a non-native without the Governor's approval. The general policy is to encourage cultivation of the soil by the native inhabitants themselves, but many leases up to ninety-nine years have been granted for commercial and other purposes and there are large tracts suitable for agriculture. It is essential that anyone who desires to cultivate rubber or other permanent crops should first visit Nigeria and ascertain the actual conditions.

197. *Surveys.*—The primary framework was further extended by the completion of the chain of triangulation between Minna and Abeokuta, and the junction of this chain with the Udi-Lokoja chain to the south of Bida.

198. A base line was measured at Minna and the chain between Minna and Naraguta rigorously adjusted, and final values of all points computed.

199. The secondary triangulation of the Minesfield area to the south of Jos was completed and considerable progress made with the fixation of numerous tertiary points.

200. The standard traverse between Lagos and Abeokuta was completed and progress made with traverses along the Abeokuta-Ibadan and Abeokuta-Aiyetoro roads.

201. Topographical mapping on the scale of half an inch to a mile was continued in the Minna and Nsukka areas. Two standard sheets were completed and two further sheets well advanced.

202. The Minesfield was closed to applications for exclusive prospecting licences from 1st April to 30th September to release staff for triangulation for the control of Minesfield surveys. 360 mining areas were surveyed during the year.

203. The large scale cadastral surveys of Lagos municipal area, Abeokuta and Ibadan, were continued, and similar surveys were commenced at Ilorin and Enugu. Surveys of layouts of various townships together with numerous sites and plots in the Northern and Southern Provinces have been executed.

204. The Drawing Office is now in charge of a European Drawing Officer and the standard of draughtsmanship is noticeably improving.

205. The lithographic section continues to expand. In addition to the ordinary reproduction of surveyed sheets and plans, a large volume of work on maps and sheets for departmental Annual Reports has been undertaken.

206. The establishment was augmented by the addition of ten European Probationer Surveyors who arrived late in the year. More than two-thirds of the European Staff are now probationers under training and some years must elapse before the full effect of the increase is felt.

207. The Survey School at Ibadan for the training of African Surveyors is proving successful. Six pupils were passed out during the year.

208. The Geological Survey continued its investigations in both the Northern and Southern Provinces. In the south, attention was directed mainly to the tracing and mapping of the coal-field northward from Enugu. The formations established to the south continue unbroken and with but slight changes as far as the southern boundary of Benue Province. A preliminary field examination has been made of an important oil seepage near Afikpo in Ogoja Province and a more detailed investigation is proposed for the next field season. A laboratory test of the oil made by the Imperial Institute shows it to be a residual oil of high specific gravity and fair quality. In the North the water supply investigations commenced last year have been continued and while further examination of the waterless areas still affords no evidence of the presence of artesian conditions it is thought that in these districts supplies sufficient for domestic purposes and for stock can be obtained by sinking wells up to depths of 300 feet. The digging of such wells will render considerable areas available for agricultural uses. As a result of these investigations it has been decided that in addition to the preliminary geological examination the Geological Survey shall organise and carry out a well-digging scheme. A water supply section has therefore been formed and the necessary technical staff engaged. It is hoped that, with such a section, water supply work and well-sinking will be considerably expedited and that more and better wells will be sunk. Experiments will be undertaken with a view to improving existing supplies and to evolving a type of well and a well-digging technique suitable to conditions in Nigeria. Work has been continued in the Minna-Birnin Gwari gold-belt where several high level terraces have been located which, on further examination, may prove of value.

209. Bulletin No. 10 entitled 'The Nigerian Coalfield—Section II, parts of Onitsha and Owerri Provinces' was published during the year. Occasional Paper No. 6, 'Notes on the Geology of the Mamfe Division, Cameroons Province' is now in the press. A new series of publications which are for local distribution only and which in the main will deal in a popular manner with subjects of economic interest to Nigeria has been commenced. Pamphlet No. I, entitled 'The Nigerian Sudan: some notes on Water Supply and Cognate Subjects', has already been published.

210. Dr. C. M. Tattam has been appointed to the post of Geologist to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Dr. J. D. Falconer and the establishment of the Survey is once again complete.

XI.—LABOUR.

211. Throughout Nigeria and the mandated territory of the Cameroons all permanent labour, as distinct from the temporary labour used by native communities when necessary and beneficial to themselves, and approved by ancient native customary law, is voluntary. Permanent labour includes most labourers paid by the month; the artisans employed by Government Departments, Native Administrations, and trading firms; standing gangs of labourers employed on road-making and other public works. No labour for private employers is recruited or engaged by Government or by the Native Administrations.

212. With the exception of some 6,000 labourers on the Cameroons Plantations, who have emigrated from the French Cameroons, there is no immigrant labour in Nigeria. The supply of labour for the Cameroons Plantations has continued satisfactory throughout the year.

213. The Roads and Rivers (Repeal) Ordinance (No. 18 of 1927) repeals Chapter 107 of the Laws of Nigeria with effect from the 1st April, 1928.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

214. A visit of Members of Parliament took place in January and February; the party comprised Major W. Elliot, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. W. Lunn of the Labour Party, and Mr. Garro Jones of the Liberal Party. Reasons of health unfortunately compelled Mr. Lunn to curtail his visit, but the other Members of Parliament visited the following Provinces:—

Abeokuta, Oyo, Benue, Plateau, Zaria, Kano, Niger, Onitsha, Owerri and Calabar.

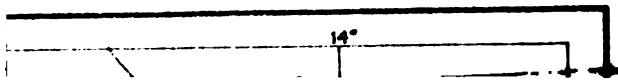
215. Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Dr. A. T. Stanton, C.M.G., M.D., F.R.C.P., D.P.H., Colonial Office Medical Adviser, visited the Northern and Southern Provinces in August and September.

G. D. PITCAIRN,

Assistant Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office,

Lagos, 15th May, 1929.



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No. 1436.

ST. VINCENT.

REPORT FOR 1928.

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ST. VINCENT.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
GEOGRAPHICAL...	2
HISTORICAL ...	2
LANGUAGE ...	3
CURRENCY ...	3
CLIMATE ...	3
I.—GENERAL ...	3
II.—FINANCIAL ...	3
III.—PRODUCTION ...	5
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS ...	8
V.—COMMUNICATIONS ...	9
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS ...	10
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS ...	11
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH ...	11
IX.—EDUCATION ...	12
X.—CROWN LANDS AND SURVEYS ...	13
XI.—LABOUR ...	13
XII.—MISCELLANEOUS ...	14
MAP ...	15

Geographical.

The Island of St. Vincent, which is of volcanic origin, is popularly supposed to have been discovered by Columbus on the 22nd January, 1498. It is situated in 13° 10' North Latitude, and 60° 57' West Longitude, at a distance of 21 miles to the south-west of St. Lucia, and 100 miles west of Barbados. It is 18 miles in length and 11 in breadth, and contains about 96,000 acres of land—about half the area of Middlesex. Most of the Grenadines, a chain of small islands lying between Grenada and St. Vincent, are comprised within the Government of the latter island. The principal is Bequia, situated at a distance of 9 miles from Kingstown, the capital of St. Vincent.

Historical.

At the time of its discovery, St. Vincent, like some of the other small islands, was inhabited by the Caribs, who continued in the undisputed possession of it until 1627, when the King of England made a grant of the Island to the Earl of Carlisle. In 1660 it was declared neutral, and in 1672 it was granted to Lord Willoughby.

In 1748 St. Vincent was again declared neutral by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1756, however, hostilities were renewed and the Island was taken in 1762 by General Monckton; and by the Treaty of Paris in the following year it was ceded to Great Britain, when General Melville was appointed Governor.

In 1773 an extensive portion of St. Vincent was allotted to the Caribs on condition that they acknowledged the King of Great Britain as their Sovereign.

In 1779 the Island surrendered to the French, and by the Treaty of Versailles, in 1783, it was restored to Great Britain.

Language.

The language of the Colony is English.

Currency.

British and American gold, five-dollar notes of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), and British silver and bronze coins constitute the currency of the Colony. Government accounts are kept in sterling and commercial and banking accounts in dollars and cents. Imperial weights and measures are in use.

Climate.

St. Vincent is reputed to be one of the healthiest of all the West Indian Islands. The climate may be divided into two seasons, wet and dry; the dry season from January to May, and the wet season from June to December. The coolest months are December to April.

The temperature throughout 1928 varied from 78° F. to 85.6° F. The highest was in July and the lowest in December; the mean monthly temperature was 80.4° F. as against 80.3° F. in 1927.

The rainfall at the Agricultural Experimental Station in Kingstown, 80 feet above sea-level, was 95.28 inches in 1928, as compared with 98.45 inches in 1927. The greatest fall for one day was 2.47 inches on 17th November.

The reading of the barometer, corrected for instrumental error, elevation, temperature, and latitude, ranged from 30.079 on 27th February to 29.758 on 12th September, 1928.

I.—GENERAL.

The event of most importance during the year under review and one of far-reaching results was the inauguration of the steamship service provided for under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925 when on Christmas Day the s.s. *Lady Nelson* of the Canadian National Steamships dropped anchor in Kingstown Harbour.

II.—FINANCIAL.

The financial position of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, was :—

					£
Net surplus at 1st January, 1928	...	...			16,414
Revenue in 1928	...	...	...	...	64,598
					£81,007
Expenditure in 1928	...	...	...	...	60,441
Net Surplus at 31st December, 1928	...	...			£20,566

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as follows :—

				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				£	£
1924	...	...	...	60,893	53,887
1925	...	...	...	62,450	53,190
1926	...	...	...	60,243	59,282
1927	...	...	...	56,469	61,564
1928	...	...	...	64,593	60,441

The revenue for 1928 is the highest on record.

The principal items of revenue in the last five years were :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£
Import duties	... 25,869	26,379	26,683	24,649	28,137
Export duties	... 3,032	2,982	2,959	2,587	2,849
Excise duty on rum	... 2,938	5,816	6,479	4,685	4,137
Land and House tax	... 5,882	6,337	4,124	3,442	5,760
Income Tax	... 3,947	4,504	3,014	2,480	2,702
Liquor trade duty	... 2,934	2,736	3,013	2,820	3,127
Postage stamps	... 2,334	1,732	1,774	1,875	3,695

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 1st January, 1928, was £9,170, of which £810 was redeemed during the year, thereby leaving the debt at the close of the year at £8,360, made up as follows :—

	£
The Public Works Loan, 1913	... 400
The Public Works Loan, 1914	... 750
*The Kingstown Board Loan, 1914	... 1,060
The Public Purposes Loan, 1915	... 1,200
The War Loan, 1916	... 1,750
The Windward Highway Loans, 1917, 1919, and 1920	... 3,200
	£8,360

The accumulated sinking funds provided for redemption of loans stood on the 31st December, 1928, at £5,802, of which £4,938 was in respect of Government loans and £864 in respect of the Kingstown Board loan.

The investments on behalf of the Loans Redemption Fund stood at the close of the year as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Imperial Treasury Bonds $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.	... 1,152	12	9
War Loan Stock 5 per cent.	... 2,602	15	8
Westminster Bank	... 1,182	10	3
	£4,937	18	8

* The Colony is only responsible for redemption of this loan in case of default by the Kingstown Board.

The investments on behalf of the Kingstown Board Sinking Fund stood as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Westminster Bank	103	0	3
Imperial Government Treasury Bonds 5 per cent.	760	18	4
	£863	18	7

The unexpended balance of £25,000 of the Eruption Relief Fund made up from donations from the public in England and elsewhere at the time of the eruptions in the Soufrière Volcano in 1902–1903, is invested and held as a reserve or insurance fund against any future elemental disaster. The annual interest derived from this balance, amounting to £750, is put to general revenue and applied to the relief of the poor. This amount, together with the Colony's Reserve Fund of £11,000, offers excellent security both for elemental disasters and economic depression.

The amount to the credit of the Public Property Insurance Fund which was started during the year 1926, stood at the close of the year 1928 at £2,442.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Cotton.—Yield of Sea Island cotton during year was poor owing to heavy attack of cotton worm and soft rot.

The question of altering the close season from April to September is under consideration.

349,246 lb. of lint were exported being 97,000 lb. less than in 1927.

The area under cotton in St. Vincent and the Grenadines during 1928 was 4,381 acres—3,386 acres Sea Island and 995 acres Marie Galante—as compared with 4,358 acres in 1927—3,364 acres Sea Island and 994 Marie Galante.

Arrowroot.—Arrowroot may be looked upon as one of if not the most important staple product in St. Vincent. No less than 3,870,420 lb. were exported from the Colony during 1928, valued at £64,508, showing an increase of 674,942 lb. as compared with 1927. The United Kingdom took 1,933,436 lb., United States 1,408,672 lb., Canada, Barbados, Germany, France, and Holland absorbing practically the balance. The consumption in the United States is steadily increasing. The campaign inaugurated by the St. Vincent Arrowroot Growers and Exporters Association twelve months ago through the medium of the West India Committee to advertise St. Vincent arrowroot in England is beginning to bear good fruit. The Empire Marketing Board have given valuable assistance both by a money grant and propaganda work.

Sugar.—The sugar and syrup industry continues to expand. 929 tons of sugar (valued at £14,190) and 167,000 gallons of syrup (valued

at £9,478) were exported. Sugar shows an increased exportation of 1,240,960 lb. over that of 1927. Market value of sugar working out at a rate a little less than £15 per ton.

Coconuts.—It is satisfactory to note the steady increase in the production and export of copra. The year 1928 shows an increase of no less than 25 per cent. over that of 1927. Several hundred acres are being planted yearly and the industry is fast becoming one of considerable importance to the Colony. Copra was valued at £18 6s. 0d. per ton.

Of the minor industries peas, beans, ground-nuts and sweet potatoes showed a marked increase, ready markets absorbing all that was produced.

The question of the building up of a fruit and vegetable trade with Canada is occupying the attention of the Government and the Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce. Now that improved communication and refrigerator accommodation has been established it is anticipated that active steps will be made to bring this into force forthwith.

A consignment of 331 lb. of Manila hemp was prepared and sent to the Imperial Institute. The report on this consignment was most encouraging, clearly indicating that Manila hemp can be successfully grown and prepared in the Colony. The report further states that commercial quantities would be readily saleable in the London market. That sent was sold at the rate of £37 10s. 0d. per ton. The cleaning of twenty pounds of fibre is regarded as a good day's work for a trained labourer in the Philippines.

The appended table shows the comparative amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities during the last five years :—

Articles.	1924.			1925.			1926.			1927.			1928.		
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.
Arrowroot ... lb.	2,952,535	51,361	3,190,412	53,174	3,291,553	45,807	3,195,478	53,309	3,870,420	£	3,870,420	64,508			
Cassava Starch ... "	634,631	6,838	470,284	4,160	443,075	4,077	543,681	4,940	392,610		392,610	3,272			
Cotton—Sea Island... "	520,369	50,218	473,219	57,655	589,499	63,175	446,274	39,204	349,246		349,246	28,549			
Do.—Marie Galante "	1,540	58	9,673	464	30,275	1,514	53,381	2,669	36,214		36,214	1,358			
Seed Cotton—Marie Galante.	32,030	534	100,468	1,047	56,092	468	108,999	1,250	35,858		35,858	312			
Cocoa... "	190,910	1,820	154,821	2,345	174,599	2,461	135,490	2,267	179,918		179,918	2,998			
Copra... "	645,973	5,430	661,309	5,512	762,563	9,826	1,198,441	10,083	1,505,093		1,505,093	12,543			
Sugar—crystallized "	22,400	280	—	—	—	—	840,000	6,947	2,080,960		2,080,960	14,190			
Syrup and Molasses... gal.	261,127	15,758	268,118	19,672	337,099	16,523	171,063	10,459	167,044		167,044	9,478			
Cotton Seed ... lb.	475,003	2,216	26,485	53	88,106	398	151,903	1,266	110,728		110,728	214			
Peanuts ... "	322,153	4,439	273,039	3,794	190,978	2,370	263,509	3,219	334,098		334,098	4,176			
Peas—Dried... "	90,705	984	90,476	866	50,185	476	38,719	352	96,386		96,386	876			
Firewood ... cords	292	257	216	181	208	178	240	221	434		434	260			
Whale Oil ... gal.	6,672	476	280	38	1,964	148	132	24	2,755		2,755	360			
Cotton Seed Oil ... "	4,120	467	4	1	5,180	583	—	—	—		—	—			
Hides and Skins ... "	—	151	—	146	—	221	—	—	—		—	—			
Vegetables, Fresh ... "	—	2,550	—	2,581	—	2,107	—	1,915	—		—	3,468			
Wool—Raw ... lb.	—	—	263	26	—	—	—	—	—		—	—			
Logwood ... tons	30	145	4	4	—	—	—	—	—		—	—			
Spices—Nutmegs ... lb.	14,452	494	10,360	492	20,190	887	21,025	695	17,623		17,623	709			
Other kinds ... "	3,589	140	2,418	100	5,062	333	5,817	255	4,599		4,599	419			
Corn ... "	143,862	752	143,210	627	91,059	388	98,879	618	49,982		49,982	299			
Animals ... "	—	2,559	—	3,986	—	5,243	—	4,398	—		—	6,931			
Lime Juice ... gal.	175	9	438	3	10	1	—	—	—		—	—			
Fruit—Fresh ... "	—	143	—	271	—	290	—	328	—		—	388			
Various, unspecified... "	—	12,731	—	839	—	946	—	1,175	—		—	164			
		£160,810		£158,037		£158,420		£145,815			£155,884				

In the reports for 1925 to 1927 the value of arrowroot exported in 1925 was incorrectly shown as £125,078 and the total value of Exports in the same year was consequently also incorrectly shown as £229,941. The correct value of arrowroot exported in 1925—£53,174—is now shown, making total value of Exports for 1925 £158,037.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total values of imports and exports for the last five years were :—

Year.			Imports.	Island Produce.	Exports.		Total.
					Other.		
			£	£	£	£	
1924	...	...	160,028	150,811	51		150,862
1925	...	...	211,907	229,941	2,491		232,432
1926	...	...	203,606	158,420	4,489		162,909
1927	...	...	172,097	145,213	602		145,815
1928	...	...	192,476	155,884	2,588		158,472

The following table shows the value of imports and countries of origin for the past five years :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	51,834	75,914	67,425	55,812	62,335
Canada ...	40,686	46,108	45,373	40,540	45,787
British West Indies ...	12,641	15,180	10,896	12,789	11,873
India ...	869	646	3,476	1,229	1,098
Newfoundland ...	3,142	2,851	6,071	4,471	5,301
Ceylon ...	32	—	62	107	324
Other British Colonies ...	6,093	7,271	3,816	5,126	8,730
United States of America	33,983	46,302	46,737	36,663	44,127
France ...	1,264	1,736	2,845	1,485	3,189
Denmark ...	543	790	450	774	857
Germany ...	1,335	1,505	1,875	1,836	1,741
Holland ...	553	706	675	582	999
Foreign West Indies ...	68	669	550	1,003	720
Other Countries ...	6,984	3,547	3,266	3,494	3,812
Unclassified, including Parcel Post.	—	8,682	10,089	6,186	*1,583

£160,027 £211,907 £203,606 £172,097 £192,476

* Does not include Parcel Post.

The following is a summary of the imports for the last five years :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£
Class I.—Food, drink and tobacco.	60,842	68,717	71,423	64,104	69,274
Class II.—Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	18,104	19,547	19,402	16,735	18,075
Class III.—Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	74,080	114,777	102,521	84,954	103,192
Class IV.—Miscellaneous and unclassified.	7,002	8,866	10,260	6,304	1,925
Class V.—Bullion and Specie.	—	—	—	—	10
	£160,028	£211,907	£203,606	£172,097	£192,476

The following are the percentages in the last five years of the principal countries from which imported articles are obtained :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
United Kingdom	32·39	35·82	33·12	32·43	32·38
United States of America	21·24	21·85	22·95	21·30	22·93
Canada	25·42	21·76	22·28	23·56	23·79
All other Countries	20·95	20·57	21·65	22·71	20·90

The following is a summary showing the destination and value of exports during the last five years :—

<i>Country of destination.</i>	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	84,521	167,116	92,576	68,452	68,930
Canada	18,368	19,149	10,992	10,276	16,435
Bermuda	91	132	221	305	292
British West Indies	39,061	30,079	36,716	35,619	39,653
British Guiana	1,101	1,306	649	747	272
United States of America	6,931	14,136	20,613	28,491	30,628
Other Countries	789	514	1,142	1,925	2,262

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The number of vessels entered was 386, of 356,822 tons, and cleared was 386, of 356,791 tons. Two vessels of a total tonnage of 37 were registered during the year, one of which was built in the Colony.

The steamship service contemplated under the Canada—West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925 was inaugurated towards the close of the year, the first steamer, the “Lady Nelson”, arriving in the Colony on her south-bound voyage on Christmas Day. The Colony is therefore now served by a regular fortnightly mail, passenger and cargo service of the Canadian National Steamships.

The steamers of the Harrison, Furness Withy, Trinidad and Ocean Dominion lines paid calls during the year.

Mails and cargo are also sent and received by sailing vessels to and from Barbados, Grenada, and Trinidad, whence there is direct communication by sea to the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Roads.

The road system of the island consists of 34 miles of highway on the windward side, suitable for motor traffic, and 28 miles on the leeward side, about 15 miles of which are suitable for motor traffic.

The highway on the windward side is the main artery of traffic, but on the leeward side the sea is the natural highway.

In addition to the highways there are some 280 miles of by-ways which act as feeders from the interior to the main roads.

The question of raising a loan for the purpose of improving the existing roads of the Colony was brought under consideration and it is hoped that a loan of approximately £10,000 will be raised during the coming year.

Postal.

There is a central post office in Kingstown, the capital of the island, and 17 offices in out-districts.

Mails are sent to the windward side of the island by motor-car, to the leeward side by motor boat, and to the Grenadines by sailing vessels.

There is no inland telegraph service. The West India and Panama Telegraph Company maintained their cable station throughout the year and there is a wireless station operated by the Pacific Cable Board as part of the All-British System authorised by the West Indian Islands (Telegraph) Act, 1924, of the Imperial Parliament.

Telephones.

The Government maintains a telephone system which connects Kingstown with exchanges in districts. There were 227 services and 188 miles of line in use.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.**(a) Justice.**

There was one sitting of the West Indian Court of Appeal in St. Vincent during the year.

Twelve criminal cases were tried by the Supreme Court and nine convictions were obtained. The number of actions filed in the Supreme Court was 9. There were 7 appeals from Magistrates' decisions. The number of Causes filed in the Summary Jurisdiction of the Court was 51.

In the Magistrate's Court, District 1, the civil matters dealt with amounted to 558. 770 persons were charged in 1928, as against 854 in 1927. Fines collected amounted to £191, a decrease of £26 on the preceding year.

In the Magistrate's Court, District 2, the civil matters dealt with amounted to 1,234. 1,164 persons were charged in 1928, as against 1,367 in 1927. Fines collected amounted to £264, as against £229 in 1927.

(b) Police.

The authorised strength of the Force remained at two officers, 52 other ranks, of whom four were permanently employed at the prison.

The general health of the Force was fair.

Discipline was on the whole satisfactory.

Fire drill was carried out weekly and all hydrants and fire appliances regularly inspected.

The Police Recreation Room and Canteen, started in 1926, continued to run successfully during the year. Both institutions are a great benefit to the Force and much appreciated by the crews of His Majesty's ships when visiting the Colony.

(c) Prisons.

The prison staff throughout the year consisted of :—

- 4 Police Constables, including the Non-Commissioned Officer who is Keeper,
- 4 Warders, three of whom are skilled in trades,
- 1 Clerical Assistant,
- 1 Matron.

Total 10

At the beginning of the year the number of prisoners was 35—31 males and 4 females. The total admissions during the year were 120, of whom 66 were males and 54 females.

The daily average was 26.58.

The highest number of prisoners at any time was 35—the lowest, 20.

The general health of the prisoners was fair and conduct satisfactory.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Considerable attention was paid to the leeward by-ways—feeders to the main leeward roads—to enable the peasants to convey their produce to the main roads and the coast, the latter being the natural and only economical method of transportation on the leeward side of the Colony.

The usual repairs and maintenance of Government buildings were carried out, but no works of a major class were carried out during the year.

Water Supply.

A water supply for the town of Chateaubelair was laid down at a cost of £1,000. Thus a long-needed want was supplied and an adequate and bacteriologically pure supply of water was given to the inhabitants.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The population of the Colony at 31st December, 1928, was 51,426.

The birth-rate for the year was 38.75 per thousand, as against 37.25 in 1927.

Legitimate births numbered 555, and illegitimate births 1,438 : the percentage of illegitimate births, viz., 72.2, being exactly the same as in 1927.

The death-rate per thousand for the year was 20.28, as compared with 16.45 in 1927.

The deaths of infants under one year (exclusive of still-births) numbered 251, as against 199 in 1927.

There were 113 still-births, of which 21 were legitimate and 92 illegitimate.

There were only 10 cases of enteric fever during the year, as against 13 in 1927 and 48 in 1926.

There were 582 cases of influenza recorded, with 8 deaths.

There were 1,203 cases of diarrhoea in children under two years of age, with 113 deaths.

A great number of cases of malaria was reported in 1928—1,046 with 15 deaths. A very definite epidemic occurred in the Buccament Bay settlement. The anopheline breeding grounds were traced to the lagoon and a water canal no longer in use. Steps were immediately taken to eradicate this and the lagoon and canal filled in. House to house inspection was made daily and quinine medication enforced. As a result the epidemic was controlled.

A course of lectures and demonstrations was given during the year for those desirous of qualifying as Sanitary Inspectors. Six candidates took the course and four qualified and received local certificates of efficiency.

The new Public Health Ordinance passed in 1927 was brought into operation from 1st April, 1928. Under this Ordinance the control of sanitation throughout the Colony is vested in one central authority, the executive functions of which devolve on the Chief Medical and Health Officer.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is not compulsory.

The following comparative table gives particulars in regard to primary education during the years 1926, 1927, and 1928 :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Number of Schools	28	28	30
Number of pupils on roll at 31st December.	5,407	5,732	6,620
Average attendance	2,892	2,969	3,410
Government Grant-in-aid	£3,335	£3,686	£4,066
Cost per head in average attendance	£1 3s. 0½d.	£1 4s. 10d.	£1 3s. 10d.

Eleven of the thirty regular schools belong to the Government, which bears the whole cost of their maintenance. Religious denominations provide and are responsible for the upkeep of the buildings of the nineteen other schools. The salaries of the teachers, however, and the greater part of the other expenses of these schools, are paid from public funds.

There were six other schools of a primary education standard, known as "Aided Schools," which were assisted by small Government grants to the extent of £88.

The Government maintains in Kingstown a secondary school for the education of boys—the Grammar School—and one for girls—the Girls' High School. The average attendance in 1928 was 67 boys and 61 girls, as compared with 71 boys and 58 girls in 1927. There is a system of Government scholarships to the Grammar School for pupils from the primary schools.

There is an Island scholarship awarded biennially under Ordinance No. 41 of 1921, tenable for not less than three and not more than five years at an approved University. The annual value is £250 and the cost of passage is also defrayed.

Provision exists for the Town Board of Kingstown to expend certain sums on scholarships at the secondary schools on lines similar to the Government Scholarships.

X.—CROWN LANDS AND SURVEYS.

The following table shows the revenue derived from Crown Lands and from Land Settlement Land :—

				<i>Crown Lands.</i>			<i>Land Settlement.</i>			<i>Total.</i>		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1924	...	...	...	511	5	0	1,104	12	7	1,615	17	7
1925	...	...	...	469	8	6	578	2	11	1,047	11	5
1926	...	...	...	450	8	10	632	2	2	1,082	11	0
1927	...	...	...	482	4	5	585	1	4	1,067	5	9
1928	...	...	...	725	8	4	1,063	11	5	1,788	19	9

The marked increase in 1928 was due to the prosecution of defaulters in their districts instead of bringing them into Kingstown.

No surveys by private surveyors were made, but the following were executed by the department :—

1. Re-establishment of boundaries at Belair Land Settlement.
2. Re-establishment of boundaries at Clare Valley-Questelles.
3. Resumption of areas for roads at Clare Valley and Perseverance.
4. Survey to provide a road from Cumberland to Chateau-belair.
5. Survey in connection with proposed water supply at Troumaca.

No work in connection with geological survey was undertaken.

XI.—LABOUR.

There is no immigration of labour into the Colony, but emigration is on the increase. Large numbers emigrate to Cuba, Santo Domingo Curaçoa, and Oruba. Cuba and Santo Domingo attract the agricultural labourer where high wages on the sugar plantations and the idea of seeing the world appeals. At Curaçoa and Oruba the large oil refining operations offer openings for artisans.

The average wage on an estate in St. Vincent is 1s. 2d. per day, but work is usually done by the task and a labourer who chooses can earn in some cases as much as 2s. a day. It is found, however, that many of the labourers if better paid simply refuse to do a full week's work. A considerable amount of the work on estates is done by women.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Banks.

There is a branch of Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) with a Savings Department, and Government maintains a Savings Bank.

Agricultural Credit Societies.

There are twenty-one Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies in the Colony, but several of them are not functioning and some cannot be said to be working satisfactorily. Steps are being taken to cancel the registration of the unsatisfactory Societies.

Government Cotton Ginnery.

The purchase of Sea Island seed cotton and corn on profit-sharing terms was continued during the year.

Map.

A map of the Island is annexed.

H. PEEBLES,
Administrator.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
SAINT VINCENT,
31st May, 1929.

St. Vincent
West Indies

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report.

[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.]

4s. 0d. (4s. 6d.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.]

4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies.

[Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.

Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9d.).

COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3261.] 9d. (10d.).

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND IN THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH COLONIAL QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER, 1924, TO NOVEMBER, 1928

[Cmd. 3268.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

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GIBRALTAR.

REPORT FOR 1928.

*(For Reports for 1926 and 1927 see Nos. 1365 and 1401, respectively
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1929. (E.M.B. 14.) 6d. (8d.).
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GIBRALTAR.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
GEOGRAPHICAL	2
HISTORICAL	2
CLIMATE	3
I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	3
II. GOVERNMENT FINANCE	4
III. TRADE AND INDUSTRY	6
IV. LEGISLATION... ..	7
V. EDUCATION	7
VI. COMMUNICATIONS	7
MAP	12

INTRODUCTION.

Geographical.

Gibraltar is a narrow peninsula three miles in length and $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile in breadth, with a total area of $1\frac{1}{4}$ square miles, situated in latitude $36^{\circ}7'16''$ North and longitude $5^{\circ}21'13''$ West, near the southern extremity of Spain, being joined to the mainland by a low sandy isthmus. It consists of a long high mountain, the ridge of which, from north to south, divides it into two unequal parts. The extreme height of the "Rock," as the mountain is commonly called, is 1,396 feet. The town is built on the western and southern sides, which face the Bay. The northern and eastern faces of the Rock are an inaccessible cliff, forming a series of rugged precipices at the foot of which, on the eastern side, confronting the Mediterranean, stands the small fishing village of Catalan Bay.

Historical.

Gibraltar was known to the ancients as Mons Calpe, one of the Pillars of Hercules, the other being Mount Abyla, or Apes Hill, on the opposite coast of Africa. It was possessed successively by the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans, and the Visigoths, but remained uninhabited till the Mohammedan invasion of Spain.

In 711 the Moorish Chief Tarik-Ibn-Zeyad landed on the Rock, and gave it the name of Gibel-Tarik, or Mountain of Tarik, of which the name of Gibraltar is a corruption. It remained in Moorish hands until 1309, when it was seized by the Spaniards.

In 1333 it was again taken by the Moors, but was wrested from the Moslem dynasty in 1462, and reverted to the dominion of Spain.

In 1704 it was captured by the British forces under Admiral Sir George Rooke, during the War of the Spanish Succession, and was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, renewed by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783. Many attempts have been made to retake Gibraltar, especially during the great siege in 1779-83, when General Elliot (afterwards Lord Heathfield) defended it against the united forces of Spain and France, but all have been unsuccessful and it has remained in British hands since its capture in 1704.

The Government is administered under Letters Patent of the 12th September, 1922, by a Governor aided by an Executive Council composed of four official and three unofficial members. The power of legislation is vested in the Governor, who is also the General Commanding the Garrison.

Climate.

The general climate of Gibraltar is mild and temperate, though somewhat hot and oppressive during the months of July and August. The meteorological record for 1928 shows 69.5° F. as the mean maximum temperature, the highest shade temperature being 99.0° F. on the 27th July, and the lowest 42° F. on the 1st January. The rainy season is spread over the period from September to May; the annual average rainfall is 35 inches, but in 1928 only 25.44 inches were registered, of which 7.06 inches fell in November.

I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The coaling trade of the port was adversely affected in the early part of the year by a coal strike which lasted for a period of two months. This strike was the result of a revision of the scale of wages paid to coal heavers and the improvement shown in the shipping returns by the end of the year indicated that the new scale was having a beneficial effect on the trade in general.

The tourist traffic again showed a slight improvement, two more tourist liners calling at Gibraltar during the year under review than in 1927. Arrangements have been made to issue an illustrated folder to all Tourist and Shipping Agencies likely to be interested, showing the attractions of Gibraltar from a tourist point of view. Various improvements are being carried out which will make it possible for tourists to visit the three principal sights of Gibraltar, the Galleries, the Water Works, and the Moorish Castle, in greater comfort and in a shorter time than has hitherto been required. It is also hoped that a first-class hotel will be erected in the near future.

On the 13th August, His Excellency General Sir Charles Monro, Bart., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., left Gibraltar on leave of absence

pending the termination of his period of office which expired on the 17th September. His successor General Sir Alexander Godley, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., A.D.C., arrived on the 16th October and assumed the duties of Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Vital Statistics and Public Health.

The estimated total civil population of Gibraltar at the close of 1928 was 16,821, of whom 15,719 are fixed residents. These figures represent the population between sunset and sunrise, but some 4,500 aliens and 1,500 British subjects resident in the neighbouring Spanish town of La Linea come into Gibraltar daily. The number of births during the year was 366 of which 212 were boys and 154 girls. The birth-rate per 1,000 was 23.28. The births refer to the fixed population only, as under the Aliens Order in Council no alien may give birth in the Colony.

293 deaths were registered, and the crude death-rate was 17.40 per 1,000. Infantile mortality was 122.9 per 1,000 and deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis 1.6 per 1,000. The number of deaths from cancer was 21.

During the year under review the health of Gibraltar has continued to be good. The vital statistics are considered satisfactory and with regard to infectious disease there is nothing of outstanding importance to record, except an outbreak of measles of which 961 cases were reported, eleven being fatal. The epidemic was of a mild nature and complications were rare. The sanitary work of the Colony is carried out by the City Council, who also have charge of the roads, lighting, water supply, and hygienic measures in dwellings.

II.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years have been :—

					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£	£
1924	...	...	...	...	166,115	160,362
1925	...	...	...	...	162,250	167,267
1926	...	...	...	...	158,636	147,942
1927	...	...	...	...	160,031	160,114
1928	...	...	...	...	164,180	165,993

Sums of £7,650 and £15,000 in respect of the appreciation of invested funds are included in the revenue for the years 1924 and 1928. The 1925 expenditure includes a sum of £11,183 in respect of depreciation of invested funds.

There is no public debt.

A statement of assets and liabilities on 31st December, 1928, is given below :—

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Balance in Bank and Chest and in the hands of Crown Agents for the Colonies and Sub- Accountants	5,535	15	8
Advances due to Government	56	3	2
Imprests	200	0	0
Unallocated Stores Suspense Account	1,744	15	11
Investments (at cost) :—			
	£	s.	d.
Surplus Funds	275,238	18	2
Savings Bank	111,902	8	4
Note Security Fund	130,000	0	0
	517,141	6	6
Investments (at cost) :—			
Note Security Fund Depreciation Fund	1,445	2	2
Investments on account of Deposits :—			
Supreme Court Funds	89,967	8	9
Unrepresented Estates Account	278	9	5
	90,245	18	2
	£616,369	1	7

Liabilities.

Deposits due by Government :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Supreme Court Funds	90,457	0	5			
Savings Bank	112,695	14	6			
Currency Notes	130,000	0	0			
Sundry Deposits	3,474	16	0			
	336,627	10	11			
Drafts and Remittances	8,006	18	1			
Surplus Funds and Savings Bank Investments :—						
Depreciation	14,432	3	5			
Reserve Fund	100,000	0	0			
Note Security Fund Depreciation Fund	1,445	2	2			
	460,511	14	7			
Balance of Assets in excess of Liabilities	155,857	7	0			
	£616,369	1	7			

Currency and Banking.

The legal tender of the Colony is in sterling denominations, and the accounts in Government Departments are so kept, but Spanish currency circulates freely. The fact that a very large proportion of the supply of food-stuffs, &c., is obtained from Spain necessitates payment being made in the currency of that country. Many merchants and traders keep their accounts in pesetas and centimos and dollars and cents.

The rate for conversion of British into Spanish currency is governed by the Stock Exchange at Madrid and telegraphed daily to the banks at Gibraltar. The average for the year was 29 pesetas 15 centimos to the pound sterling.

Colonial Government Currency Notes are in circulation to the value of £130,000, the bulk of these notes are of the new issue, but there are still old notes in circulation to the value of about £4,500. The new notes were issued under the Currency Note Ordinance, 1927, and are of the following values :—£5, £1, and 10s.

There are four private banks, who have correspondents in all the principal cities of the world and offer every facility for the transaction of banking business, viz. :—

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas), Head Office, 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C.3.

The Credit Foncier d'Algerie et de Tunisie, Head Office, 43, Rue Cambon, Paris; London Branch, 18, St. Swithin's Lane, E.C.4.

A. L. Galliano, of Gibraltar.

Messrs. Rugeroni Bros. & Co., of Gibraltar.

III.—TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

The staple trade is the supply of coal, fuel oil, stores, and fresh water to shipping, as Gibraltar is pre-eminently a coaling station. A fair amount of business is also carried on in connection with transit cargo to Morocco and Spain.

Statistics of imports and exports (except such as are necessary for revenue purposes) are not kept, the only dutiable goods being wines, spirits, malt liquors, perfumed spirits, motor spirit, and tobacco.

The only industries in Gibraltar are connected with shipping and the manufacture of tobacco. At the foundries and yards situated on the North Front, boats, lighters, and steam launches are built and repaired and extensive repairs are often carried out to both hulls and machinery of vessels calling here.

There is no land in Gibraltar capable of cultivation.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Ten laws were enacted during the year, four of which have interest other than local :—

Ordinance No. 1.—The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1928, which was enacted to bring local legislation up to the standard required by the International Convention relating to Dangerous Drugs.

Ordinance No. 6.—The Civil Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 1928, which gave the Police power to take finger prints of certain accused persons. Before the enactment of this Ordinance power only existed to take finger prints on admission to prison.

Ordinance No. 7.—The United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Ordinance, 1928, was enacted with a view to conferring upon the proprietors of designs registered in the United Kingdom the same privileges and rights as they enjoy under the United Kingdom Designs Act.

Ordinance No. 9.—The Pensions (Hospital Nursing Staff) Ordinance, 1928, was enacted in order to give effect to the recommendations of the Colonial Office Conference in regard to the grant of retiring allowances to Nursing Sisters.

V.—EDUCATION.

Under Ordinance No. 7 of 1917, education is compulsory in the case of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years.

Since the year 1921, the Governor has been advised on educational matters by a Board of Education under the chairmanship of the Colonial Secretary.

The Government grant-in-aid per pupil in average attendance in efficient day schools during the school year is £3 10s., and the total amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1929, was £7,856, exclusive of a grant of £78 in aid of Night Classes.

Books and equipment are issued to pupils free of charge, and for this purpose a special grant is made to the several School Committees, ranging, according to standard, from 2s. to 16s. for each child appearing on the roll on the last day of the scholastic year. The total amount paid for the year ended 31st March, 1929, was £978.

In addition, the Government paid £529 to the City Council on behalf of the schools for general sanitary purposes, rates and water, and £324 for rent of certain school premises.

The total cost to the Government in respect of education was, therefore, £9,765, exclusive of the grant of £240 towards handicraft classes.

The payment of "school pence" is voluntary, and the receipts from this source are practically negligible.

There are nine school buildings, containing thirteen Government-aided schools for primary education—eleven Roman Catholic and two Hebrew.

The Roman Catholic schools are conducted by the Christian Brothers and Nuns of the Order of Loreto, and the Hebrew schools by lay teachers, the various schools being under the direct management of local committees.

The total number of scholars on the registers was 2,681, and 2,247 was the average number in attendance during the year.

The work of the School Attendance Officer, appointed early 1923, has continued to give good results; 59 attendance orders were issued during the year, and 35 cases were brought before the Police Court, for infringements of the Compulsory Education Ordinance.

Since 1925 this Government has made an annual grant of £240 to the Christian Brothers in respect of wood-work classes which are open to boys of all religious denominations. A special building has been erected, fitted with the machinery and tools requisite for wood and metal work, and all boys taking courses in manual work are taught to make proper drawings of their work in wood or metal. They also receive special training in drawing suitable for those taking up a trade or profession.

Nine candidates presented themselves for the annual examination in English for Assistant Teachers. Four of these had qualified the previous year and were taking the examination again with a view to obtaining honours. Only one of these was successful, and of the other five candidates, who were taking the examination for the first time, all qualified, one obtaining honours.

The annual inspection of the schools in March, 1929, was again carried out by the Resident Inspector as it was decided, for reasons of economy, not to apply for the services of a Board of Education Inspector. The inspection was carried out on the lines of previous inspections by the Visiting Inspector, and the work was found to be on the whole quite satisfactory, all the schools, with one exception, receiving the full grant.

Monthly inspections of the children in the schools were carried out by the school nurse, one of the staff nurses attached to the Colonial Hospital, and occasional visits paid by the assistant surgeons.

Secondary.—There are five secondary schools in the Colony, viz. :—

Line Wall College, for boys, conducted by the Christian Brothers.

Two Convents, for girls, under the Nuns of the Loreto Order.
Brympton, a Church of England school for girls, managed by a local Committee and conducted by the teachers.

Brighthurst, for boys, under the directorship of Mr. E. Martin.

In these educational establishments pupils are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations, which are held annually. In addition to the above, there are a number of private schools with about 135 pupils, but the instruction given is mainly of an elementary character.

VI.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Postal.

British and Continental mails are forwarded and received daily by overland route—via Spain and France—and there is a daily steamer service in connection with this mail service, between Gibraltar and the Spanish town of Algeciras, for which the Colonial Government pays the Algeciras-Gibraltar Ferry Boats Company, under contract, an annual subsidy of £500.

Correspondence for Egypt and places eastward of Suez is forwarded weekly by Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company steamers, and the Orient Line Steamers also carry mails for Port Said, Colombo, and Australia.

Ship mails for Malta, Algiers, and Oran are made up and despatched by merchant steamers on every practicable opportunity, and mails for Morocco are carried by Bland's Line of steamers twice a week, and daily via Algeciras.

There is also a parcel post service with the United Kingdom, and parcels may be sent to nearly all the countries in the Postal Union.

Overland mails from Gibraltar reach London and vice versa in about three and a-half days.

Telegraphs.

The Government land lines connecting Gibraltar with the Spanish towns of San Roque, Cadiz, Malaga, and Cordoba are worked by the Eastern Telegraph Company who, under a special agreement, pay £300 annually to the Colonial Government.

The Eastern Telegraph Company have a station at Gibraltar where telegrams are accepted for all parts of the world.

Commercial and private messages for transmission by the Naval Wireless Station to merchant vessels at sea in the neighbourhood are also accepted at the offices of the Eastern Telegraph Company and, similarly, wireless messages received from ships are delivered by that Company.

Telephones.

There are no telephones under Colonial Government control. A telephone service of the Strowzer Automatic Telephone Exchange type was installed in 1926 for the City Council of Gibraltar by the Peel Conner Telephone Works of Coventry, of which the General

Electric Company are the proprietors. This service was inaugurated in October, 1926, and telephonic communication has now been established with the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, and Portugal.

The establishment of this telephone service was authorised in November, 1924, by "The City Council (Telephone) Ordinance, 1924" (No. 7 of 1924), the City Council being guaranteed by the Government against loss on working expenses to a limit of £5,000 for a period of five years.

The local Naval and Military Departments have their own lines which are connected with the City Council exchange.

Roads.

The upkeep of roads is in the hands of the City Council in whom they are vested by law. The length of roads open for traffic is five and a-quarter miles in the City, or North District, four miles in the South District, and about four and a-half miles in the North Front and Catalan Bay District.

Roads in the City are narrow; those in the other districts are fairly wide. All are in excellent condition and are suitable for motor traffic.

There are no railways or tramways in Gibraltar.

Shipping.

Owing to its geographical position, Gibraltar is extensively used as a port of call and a coaling station by vessels of every nationality.

The following table shows the number and tonnage of ships which entered Gibraltar during 1928 :—

<i>Steamers.</i>		<i>Sailing Vessels.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Tonnage.</i>
3,478	6,712,702	1,340	32,136	4,818	6,744,838

As compared with 1927, there was a net increase of 389 in the total number of vessels entering the port, with an aggregate tonnage of 120,634 tons—an increase of 655 sailing vessels and a decrease of 266 steamers.

The principal lines which call regularly at this Port are :—

Weekly :—

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

Fortnightly :—

Orient Line, Anchor Line, Moss Line, Ellerman Line, Wescott and Laurance, Power Steamship Company, MacAndrew's Hall Lines, Nippon Yusen Kaisha Line, Lloyd Sabaud, Oldenburg Portugiesische, The American Levant Line, and Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.

Monthly :—

Cunard Line, France-Amerique Co., and Societa Anonima di Navigazione Neptunia.

Occasionally :—

White Star Line, Union-Castle Line, British India Steam Navigation Co., New Zealand Steamship Co., and Elder Dempster Line.

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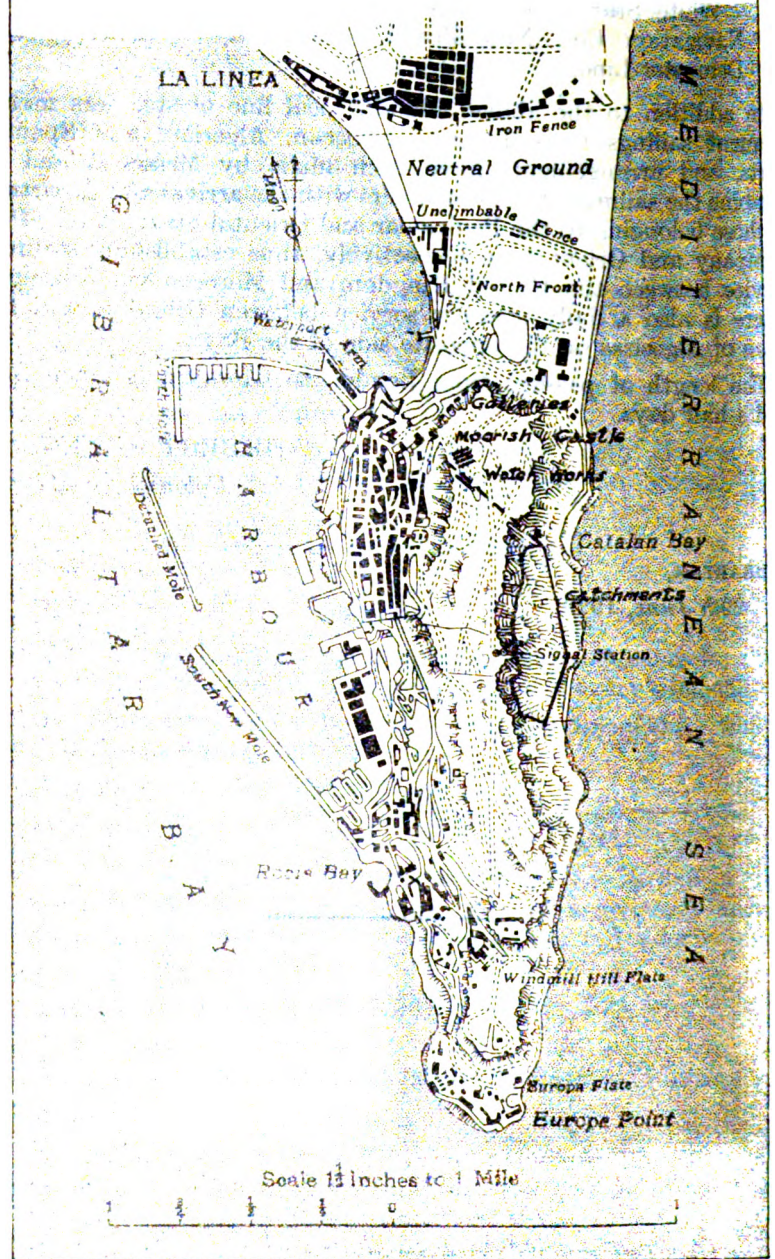
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HUBERT YOUNG,
Colonial Secretary.

GIBRALTAR,

29th June, 1929.

GIBRALTAR



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Bechuanaland Protectorate.

REPORT FOR 1928.

*(For Report for 1926-27 see No. 1379 (Price 1s. 0d.) and for
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BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

REPORT FOR 1928.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL	2
CURRENCY	4
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	4
LANGUAGES	4
I.—GENERAL	5
II.—FINANCE	7
III.—PRODUCTION	7
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS	14
V.—COMMUNICATIONS	14
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	15
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS	16
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH	17
IX.—EDUCATION	19
X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS	20
XI.—LABOUR	22
XII.—VETERINARY	22
XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS	26

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL.

Proclamation of British Protectorate.—During the year 1885 Sir Charles Warren, who was in command of an expedition despatched from England to pacify Southern Bechuanaland, where for some time previously hostilities had been proceeding between the Bechuana and Boers from the South African Republic, visited the principal chiefs in Northern Bechuanaland (known as the Bechuanaland Protectorate), namely, Khama, Gasietsiwe, and Sebele, and as a result a British Protectorate was proclaimed over their territories.

* The financial information given in this report is for the year ended the 31st March, 1928. Other details are for the calendar year 1928.

No further steps were taken until the year 1891, when, by an Order in Council, dated the 9th May, the limits of the Bechuanaland Protectorate were more clearly defined, and the High Commissioner for South Africa was authorised to appoint such officers as might appear to him to be necessary to provide for the administration of justice, the raising of revenue, and generally for the peace, order, and good government of all persons within the limits of the Order. Sir Sydney Shippard, the Administrator of Bechuanaland, was appointed Resident Commissioner. An Assistant Commissioner was also appointed for the Southern Protectorate and another for the Northern Protectorate, the laws in force in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope on the 10th June, 1891, being declared in force in the territory, *mutatis mutandis*, and so far as not inapplicable. Subsequent legislation has been effected by Proclamation of the High Commissioner.

Relations with the British South Africa Company.—For fiscal and other purposes the Protectorate was treated as a portion of the Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland until the 15th November, 1895, when the latter was annexed to the Cape Colony. In the autumn of that year arrangements were made for the transfer of the administration of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, with the exception of certain reserves for native chiefs, to the British South Africa Company. The country occupied by the Bamalete tribe, and so much of the Bora-Tshidi Barolong country as lies within the limits of the Protectorate, were transferred to the administration of the British South Africa Company, Dr. L. S. Jameson being appointed Resident Commissioner therefor. The Company's police were moved down to a camp in the Protectorate, at Pitsani Potlugo. From that spot, on the 29th December, Dr. Jameson crossed the border of the South African Republic with his Police, and marched towards Johannesburg, which was at that time in a state of great unrest. Being defeated by the Boers at Doornkop, he surrendered on the 2nd January, 1896. In consequence of this raid, the administration of the two areas above referred to was transferred to the British Government, by whom the Protectorate, in its entirety, is still governed under the name of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. It includes the Tati District, which is a portion of old Matabeleland conceded in 1887, by Lobengula, to Mr. S. H. Edwards.

Boundaries.—The territory of the Bechuanaland Protectorate is bounded on the south and east by the Union of South Africa, on the north-east by Southern Rhodesia, and on the north and on the west by the territory of South West Africa.

It has not been surveyed as a whole, but its area is estimated at 275,000 square miles. Its mean altitude is about 3,300 feet.

In view of the geographical position of that part of the mandated territory of South West Africa east of Longitude 21° E., known as the Caprivi Strip, it was found expedient to provide in 1922 that the latter should be administered as if it were a portion of the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The Bechuanaland Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into the following districts, with a Magistrate at the head of each :—

N'gamiland (Headquarters Maun).
 Chobe (Headquarters Kasane).
 Ngwato (Headquarters Serowe).
 Gaberones (Headquarters Gaberones).
 Lobatsi (Headquarters Lobatsi).
 Ghanzi (Headquarters Gembok Pan).
 Francistown (Headquarters Francistown).
 Tuli Block (Headquarters Selika).
 Kweneng (Headquarters Molepolole).
 Ngwaketsi (Headquarters Kanye).
 Kgalagadi (Headquarters Lehututu).

In addition, the Assistant Resident Commissioner is Chief Magistrate for the Protectorate, and, as such, has all the powers of an Assistant Commissioner or Resident Magistrate throughout the territory.

CURRENCY.

The coinage legally current in the Bechuanaland Protectorate is declared by Order in Council dated the 23rd January, 1911, to be all British coins and all Transvaal coins, British coins being defined as any coins which under the Coinage Acts, 1870 and 1891, are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and Transvaal coins as any coins which were coined in the Mint established at Pretoria by the Government of the late South African Republic in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 14 of 1891 of that Republic.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The weights and measures in use in the territory are Imperial.

LANGUAGES.

The principal languages spoken are English and Sechuana.

In the Lobatsi District there are many settlers of Dutch extraction who speak only Afrikaans. The Bakgatla tribe speak a language akin to Sesuto called Sekgatla.

In the Tati District the principal tribe (Makalaka) speak Sekalaka or Sekalanga, a combination of Sechuana and Setebele. In the portion of the Caprivi Strip east of the Mashi river Sekololo is spoken, which is Sesuto intermingled with words that have survived from the language spoken in Barotseland before the Basuto conquest in the early part of last century. West of the Mashi river are the Mampukushu, who speak their own language, which is of different construction to those of any of the neighbouring tribes. So, too, is the Damara, which the refugees from German rule who settled at Xomo on the Botletle river under Headman Nicodemus speak. In the Kalahari Desert the utterly distinct Bushmen tongue is often encountered, but very few Europeans can master it.

I.—GENERAL.

The dangerous illness of His Most Gracious Majesty the King towards the end of the year was followed by Europeans and natives, in their different ways, with intense sympathy and anxiety, their feelings alternating with joy and sorrow with the harrowing fluctuations of the disease. The European Advisory Council and the Chief Mathiba of the Batawana tribe asked that loyal messages might be transmitted to the Queen, and Her Majesty returned her grateful appreciation of these manifestations of sympathy on the part of the peoples of the territory. Expressions of the sincere loyalty of the local population to the Throne have never been lacking, but in this crisis it was possible to realize the immense amount of good that has resulted from the visit to the territory in 1925 of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Owing to the vast size and exiguous communications of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, the difficulties of obtaining the facts and statistics, in respect of any financial year, on which the annual report of the territory has been based, and afterwards of collating them, in time to enable the report to be published soon after the period under review has closed, have proved incapable of solution. Henceforward the report will deal with events of the preceding calendar year, except financial statistics, which will relate to the financial year ended on the previous 31st March. The section "Finance" now published is therefore a reproduction of what appeared under this head in the last report.

The Resident Commissioner has to acknowledge the courtesy of a report furnished to him by Dr. W. J. Cameron, of Chicago, leader of the Cameron-Cadle Kalahari Desert Expedition. This communication follows the lines of what was stated in this connection in the last annual report. Dr. Cameron expresses the hope that at some future date he may be enabled to repeat the expedition with greater success, though he indicates that the results secured last year while the expedition was on the border near Matetsi, when 90 odd Bushmen and mixed breeds were brought to their camp, have been received with the greatest satisfaction in his country.

There is nothing to add to the full account given in the 1927-28 Report of the exploratory journeys undertaken through the Kalahari Desert by Lieutenant (now Captain) Beeching and Captain the Hon. B. E. H. Clifford, C.M.G., M.V.O. (Imperial Secretary), with a view to the establishment of a direct cattle route to the railway from Ghanzi. The steps taken by the Administration to bore for water along this route have, up to the moment of writing, been suspended owing to lack of rain.

The European Advisory Council held its ninth meeting at Mafeking in September, as it had been decided to hold the Council twice a year, instead of annually, as heretofore.

The Council is representative of seven electoral areas, covering the whole territory, as follows :—

1. Ghanzi District ;
2. Francistown District ;
3. Tuli Block District ;
4. Ngwato (Bamangwato Reserve), N'gamiland (Batawana Reserve), and Chobe Districts ;
5. Gaberones Block together with all the land lying between the Bamalete Reserve and Gaberones Block bounded on the north-west by the Bakwena Reserve and on the east by the eastern boundary of the farm " Crocodile Pools " ;
6. Lobatsi District (excluding Barolong Farms but including the farm " Panyani ") and Kgalagadi District ;
7. Bamalete, Bakgatla, Bakwena, and Bangwaketsi Reserves, and Barolong Farms ;

each of which returns one member who must be a qualified voter and have been nominated by not less than five qualified voters, and he holds his seat on the Council for a period of three years. Immediately prior to a new election a register of qualified voters in each area is compiled. Every landowner, leaseholder, fixed property holder, or licensed trader, of a value of not less than £300 (or his duly appointed representative), being a British subject of European descent residing within the territory, has one vote. Each candidate for election must deposit the sum of £25, which is forfeited should he fail to poll one-fifth of the total number of votes polled by the successful candidate. Three members may suggest to the Resident Commissioner the advisability of calling a meeting at any time, stating their reasons. The Resident Commissioner presides over the sittings of the Council.

The present Members of the Council are :—

- H. C. Weatherilt, Esquire, O.B.E., J.P. (Electoral areas Nos. 1 and 3) ;
- R. McFarlane, Esquire, J.P. (Electoral area No. 2) ;
- R. A. Bailey, Esquire, J.P. (Electoral area No. 4) ;
- L. S. Glover, Esquire (Electoral area No. 5) ;
- G. J. F. van Rensburg, Esquire (Electoral area No. 6) ;
- B. I. Vickerman, Esquire (Electoral area No. 7).

The eighth Annual Meeting of the Native Advisory Council was held at Gaberones in April, 1928.

The Council is normally representative of the tribes of the Southern Protectorate only, namely, the Barolong, the Bakwena, the Bangwaketsi, the Bakgatla, the Bamalete, and the Batlokwa. The Chief of the Bamangwato is, however, always invited to attend, and has occasionally attended, the sittings of the Council, but the Batawana tribe in N'gamiland is too far distant for their representation to be practicable. The Council consists of five members (one of whom must be the ruling Chief), elected by each of the six tribes according to their custom, and discusses with the Resident Commissioner all matters affecting native interests which any of its members desires

to bring forward and especially the administration of the Native Fund.

The Native Fund is devoted to purely native purposes, e.g., native education, improvement of native stock, water supply in native reserves, and an annual contribution to the cost of eradication of lung sickness in cattle. The revenue of the fund is obtained by an annual tax of 5s. on every native liable for hut-tax.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue for the year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to £147,911. As compared with the previous year, increases aggregating £20,778 were shown under the heads Customs (£1,513), Licences (£40), Judicial Fines (£286), Income Tax (£17,989), and Miscellaneous (£950), whilst decreases amounting to £4,435 were reflected under the heads Hut Tax (£559), Posts (£1,150), Revenue Stamps (£370), European Poll Tax (£33), Rentals and Transfer Duty (£2,003), and Native Fund Contribution (£320).

The total expenditure amounted to £119,984, which was £11,761 in excess of the amount for the preceding year. The increases were incurred mainly on Police, Administration of Justice, Public Works, Veterinary, and Pensions, while smaller increases were shown under most other services.

The appended figures furnish the totals of the revenue and expenditure and the accumulated surplus balances for the past five years :—

<i>Financial Year.</i>	<i>Total Revenue.</i>	<i>Total Expenditure.</i>	<i>Surplus Balance.</i>
	£	£	£
1923-1924	100,234	81,808	26,817
1924-1925	99,576	87,372	39,021
1925-1926	107,345	104,122	42,244
1926-1927	131,568	108,223	65,589
1927-1928	147,911	119,984	93,516

During 1927-28 a sum of £1,191 was lent to settlers at 5 per cent. interest, repayment of the capital being spread over a period of five years. Eleven loans were granted for building dipping tanks, two for water-boring, and one was paid to afford relief from a bond at a high rate of interest.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The natives of the Bechuanaland Protectorate are mainly engaged in cattle rearing. The distribution, among the various tribes, of pure-bred bulls and cows purchased out of a fund maintained by the natives themselves, and the restriction of cattle exportations to the Union of South Africa to a certain weight of animal, have contributed in different ways to the improvement of native stock. For veterinary reasons the export of cattle to the Union is further restricted to consignments intended for approved abattoirs and (without restriction as to weight) for export overseas, while to South West Africa and Southern Rhodesia it is absolutely prohibited. Subject to authorisation from the *Inspecção dos Servicos Veterinarios* in Loanda being previously obtained, there is unrestricted export of cattle to Angola.

Cattle may be exported through Northern Rhodesia to the Belgian Congo provided that they are certified by a qualified veterinary surgeon as being themselves clean and as coming from an area which has been free from transmittable disease for a period of six months. In the case of N'gamiland or Ghanzi cattle, they must also have travelled to the border of the territory along a road free from the tsetse fly and their blood undergone a microscopic test at the border. A quarantine is imposed on entrance of such cattle into Northern Rhodesia and, in order to conserve the grazing there, only a limited number is allowed to cross annually. In the case of cattle from the Tati (Francistown) District, export is only allowed of purely Tati cattle, and no cattle may leave the train in Northern Rhodesia. At Sakania, Belgian Congo, a further quarantine is imposed on all cattle entering the Colony.

As a result of all these restrictions, some of which are of recent imposition, the cattle trade is not yet as flourishing as it might be.

An inspection fee of 1s. a beast is levied on all cattle exported from N'gamiland and the Caprivi Strip, as a contribution towards the cost of the services rendered in order to satisfy the above-mentioned veterinary restrictions.

The embargo on exportation of cattle from the Caprivi Strip continues.

The figures for export of cattle to the Johannesburg abattoirs are 11,124 head, which is still considerably below those for a twelve months' period prior to the introduction of the increased weight standard imposed by the Union Government. There is, however, practically no falling off in this export or the total cattle exports from the territory as compared with the twelve months ending 31st March, 1928, reviewed in the last report, though the total export is still considerably below what it was some years ago.

For cattle exported overseas, there is a drop from 10,050 to 8,734 as compared with the period under review last year. As explained last year, this must be attributed to fluctuation of contracts.

The number of cattle exported to Angola shows an improvement from 1,536 to 2,752.

The slight decrease from 6,510 to 5,882 in cattle exported to the Belgian Congo was due to a temporary stoppage of this trade owing to some animals being found on arrival at the Congo border to be infected with trypanosomiasis, the disease apparently having been dormant when the animals left the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

The total cattle export for 1928 is 28,492 head.

Exports of small stock to the Union and Rhodesia remain practically stable in the region of 16,000 animals altogether.

Pigs, which are mainly exported to the Union, show an increase from 1,410 to 2,143.

Prices realised for Protectorate cattle continue to maintain a fair level.

Export figures in respect of hides, skins, and karosses are not yet available for 1928, but it is known that the hide and skin trade has

experienced a set-back owing to a serious drop in prices, which, during the period last under review had, owing to some unascertainable reason, reached a phenomenal figure.

Firewood figures are also not yet available, but the exhaustion of the Union alluvial diamond fields in the proximity of the Protectorate border has resulted in a decreased demand for this product.

The only minerals at present produced are gold and silver in the Tati (Francistown) District : 1,748 ounces of gold and 141 ounces of silver, valued at £7,344, as against 2,063 ounces of gold and 157 ounces of silver, valued at £8,671, in the twelve months ended 31st March, 1928.

The asbestos deposits in the Bangwaketsi Reserve continue to be developed, but no output can be expected until the issue of the new mining legislation enables the exploiting companies to work their "properties" with confidence. Another promising deposit of this mineral is reported from the Tati District, but up to the present no reliable particulars have been obtained.

A sample of the galena deposits in the Bangwaketsi Reserve obtained the following report from the Imperial Institute :—

"The sample received for examination, which weighed about 7½ lb., consisted of galena in a quartz gangue. With a view to determining the amount of silver in the galena, a portion of the latter was separated from the gangue by hand picking and gave the following results on analysis :—

Lead (Pb)	73.44 per cent.
Silver	8 ozs. 3½ dwt. per ton.

The above results show that the sample analysed contained about 85 per cent. of galena (PbS). The quantity of silver present is not high, but would add somewhat to the marketable value of the lead ore."

No further development is reported as yet in regard to this mineral.

The end of the season 1928-29 crop reports indicate dissimilar results. In the greater portion of the Ngwato District (Bamangwato) the prospects for the kaffir-corn and mealie (maize) harvest are extremely good. The natives usually grow only for their own use and, instead of storing against drought years, are very prone to sell any surplus. There should, therefore, be a large quantity available for export from this District under both heads. In the Chobe District, in spite of late rains and unseasonable floods, good crops of kaffir-corn and mealies and a fair crop of pumpkins and beans is anticipated, except in the region of the Maschi river (Caprivi Strip) where there will be a shortage of food. Drought has been prevalent in the Francistown, Tuli Block, Kweneng (Bakwena), Ngwaketsi (Bangwaketsi), Gaborones, Lobatsi, Kgalagadi, and Ghanzi Districts, and cereal and other crops for food are expected to be either nil or much below the average.

The Army Worm made its appearance in the Kweneng, Gaborones, and Lobatsi Districts and such efforts as were locally possible were made to cope with it, but considerable destruction of crops ensued.

The N'gamiland report has not been received.

Cotton.—No cotton was grown in the territory during last season. The farmer in the Tati District who had previously been so successful with his experimental crops of cotton was advised to grow none for two reasons, (1) that Major Cameron, the Rhodesian expert, advised him that he had no suitable seed for planting, and (2) because of the state of the market and lack of ginning facilities. In regard to (1), Major Cameron supplied him with a small packet of his new seed to try, but this came to nothing owing to excessive rain. As regards (2), his last season's crop of seed cotton is still in Bulawayo unginned owing to certain difficulties that have arisen locally. It is possible that this deadlock will be overcome in the near future, but unless it is he does not intend to grow cotton for lint again as he considers that it is not an economic proposition if the seed cotton has to be railed a long distance to the ginners. Mr. McLeod maintains that cotton is a valuable crop not only for rotation purposes, but as cattle feed and fertilizer.

Tobacco.—So far as can be ascertained no tobacco was grown in the territory during 1928 for commercial purposes except in the Tati (Francistown) District. Reports supplied by the two farmers concerned are summarized as follows :—

One farmer planted 9 acres of Turkish tobacco in 1927. This he considers yielded about 3,700 lb. Of this, 1,760 lb. were sent to London and up to the present are unsold, the delay being due to the fact that he did not know that a certificate of origin had to be sent with the tobacco to enable buyers to obtain the Empire preference. He is advised by the London broker that it should be worth about 1s. 6d. per lb. This price is lower than expected but can be ascribed to inexperience in curing and baling. He considers that 2s. per lb. net, which represents 2s. 3d. per lb. in London, is a satisfactory price and a payable one, and from enquiries made on his recent visit to England there is no reason to doubt that this price will be obtained for ordinary good quality Turkish tobacco. He placed six bales on the Bulawayo Show which were subsequently sold to the African Tobacco Company. The remainder of the crop was turned into native tobacco. He considers that the yield was about 410 lb. per acre. He cannot state definitely the financial result of the crop, as he only has the expenditure figures, which amounted to just £200 and includes buildings, planter, watering cans and tank, and other items, which should really come under capital expenditure but, as the crop was in the nature of an experiment, have all been included against the crop return. He anticipates a small profit. The most interesting result was the cost of production per lb. calculated from the price paid for labour, &c., on the estimated yield of 3,700 lb. This came to 9.44 pence per lb., which appears to be in keeping with costs of production elsewhere, but he is of opinion that this could be reduced to about 7½ pence where a large acreage is grown.

He is convinced, as a result of his experiment, that the cultivation of Turkish tobacco in this district is a payable proposition, as there

is no doubt that the soil, when properly treated, will produce good yields of good quality tobacco. The usual short rainfall, coming as it does chiefly between the end of December and the middle of March, is ideal for the conditions required, and normally weather conditions from the end of March to July are excellent for curing. The great difficulty experienced in the last two seasons has been with seed beds, as the young seedlings are very susceptible to insect attacks, and the only method of overcoming it appears to be by seeding for double the acreage intended to be planted.

The present season with its excessive rainfall has been most unsuitable for Turkish tobacco. There has been so little sunshine and so much rain that the plants in the seed beds have made very slow growth. Also for the same reason the plants in the field have made very slow and uneven growth. The leaves have very little body in them and plants are flowering and ripening at less than two feet high, and for this reason will be a very difficult crop to pick. He doubts whether any cured leaf will be produced and contemplates making it all into plug tobacco. However, as he says, it has been a most abnormal season, and it does not alter his opinion that tobacco does well in this district. He intends cultivating about fifty acres every year. This year's acreage will not be more than twenty-five acres, as all seedlings are very late and quite half will have to be unused for the reasons given.

The other farmer reaped during 1928 off 4 acres approximately 2,000 lb. of cured leaf. This was grown in ordinary sandy soil but was heavily manured with kraal manure, each plant having in addition 1 tablespoon of high-grade superphosphate. It appeared, when once started, to stand drought well. Some of this was fine cured, some merely sundried, the whole being made into native tobacco and sold for approximately 1s. per lb. This variety would do better on heavier soil. He has forgotten the name of the variety; it was Virginia. Probably sun-cured Virginia tobacco would do well on this light soil. There appeared to be no disease in this particular crop. The net profit was about £18 per acre. The present area under cultivation is $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres and so far the results appear to be much better than last season, as the yield will be heavier and the stand is better. This is heavy Virginian pipe tobacco and apparently does not suffer so much from excessive rain, at least it would appear so from the farmer saying that he expects to have a heavier crop than last year.

Dairy Produce.—The dairy industry has made great progress in the year under review.

On the 31st March, 1928, there were 465 creameries and cheese factories registered, being 120 more than at the end of the previous year. Of these, native creameries increased from 54 to 119.

The type of building has improved and in most cases far exceeds minimum requirements. The native is showing a praiseworthy spirit of emulation, each trying to go one better than his predecessor in registration.

Native milk-sellers, i.e., those who milk under European supervision and sell their milk for separation, have increased from 135 to 186.

The quality of the cream produced in the Protectorate continues to show steady improvement and now compares very favourably with that produced in any of the neighbouring territories.

Transport in the territory is improving in many instances. The light motor-lorry is replacing the ox-wagon as a means of milk and cream transport.

During July last the Administration approached the railway authorities with a view to getting a railway motor service to serve the districts west of Magalapye, as it was felt that such a service would greatly stimulate dairying in this area. A representative of the railway motor service was sent by the railway authorities to investigate the possibilities of such a service, and was accompanied in his investigations by the Dairy Expert and Inspector.

The representative's report was favourable, and it is expected that a motor lorry service will operate between the African ranches homestead, in the Tuli Block, and Debeeti station, in the Baman-gwato Reserve, early next year.

Owing to drought conditions that prevailed for the greater part of the year under review, the total production decreased slightly, but this was more than compensated for by the higher prices received for what was produced.

The Dairy Expert has devoted much time to instruction of natives, and, in general, he has also found time to give instruction in cheese-making, with demonstrations. He has also advocated the production of ensilage, the growth of spineless cactus, and the gathering of hay, &c., with some success and he will persevere in this direction.

Lobatsi Creamery.—The opening of the Lobatsi Creamery by the Bechuanaland Cold Storage Company has been of much assistance to the Protectorate dairy industry. This butter factory is rapidly going ahead, and should shortly be an asset to both the operating Company and the Protectorate.

It is regretted that the dairy production statistics for 1928 are not yet available.

The Expert organized a large Protectorate cheese exhibit for the Bulawayo and Salisbury Shows. Since the last report was compiled the following prizes have been gained at these Shows with either the Cheddar or Gouda variety manufactured in the territory: at Bulawayo (1927) four Firsts, one Second; at Salisbury (1927), best exhibit of 500 lb. suitable for export, three Seconds; at Bulawayo (1928), best exhibit of cheese, best exhibit of soft cheese, two Firsts, five Seconds. The Right Honourable L. S. Amery, M.P., Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, was present at the Salisbury Show and commented very favourably on the Protectorate exhibits. Several successes have also been gained by Protectorate cheese-makers at some of the smaller Rhodesian Shows.

CHIEF EXPORTS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS.

	1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.		1926-27.		1927-28.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£		£		£		£		£
Kafir Corn ...	5,379	3,348	6,306	4,438	6,403	2,815	3,989	4,122	1,659	1,121
Mealies ...	703	484	41	40	11,859	5,654	2,888	1,546	—	—
Cheese ...	68,752	3,467	59,790	2,844	687	31	134,611	6,730	114,387	7,149
Cattle ...	18,147	71,155	24,481	86,256	33,563	144,686	31,889	159,445	30,050	137,569
Sheep and Goats ...	7,693	5,457	16,981	12,009	11,921	8,457	13,364	11,359	16,407	12,800
Pigs ...	44	51	—	—	612	2,180	1,674	3,348	1,410	2,215
Hides ...	467,280	12,206	77,649	19,947	918,665	27,025	2,283,506	41,660	1,506,635	66,870
Skins (Sheep and Goats) ...	61,279	4,192	45,000	2,171	97,549	2,743	91,875	3,599	69,374	3,556
Skins and Karosses (wild (No.) animals).	13,316	5,583	47,324	12,820	68,192	10,456	55,643	12,840	72,990	16,814
Butter Fat and Cream ...	166,160	14,304	338,401	20,360	340,966	22,082	449,036	26,535	364,725	28,008
Firewood ...	5,570	2,792	2,597	2,554	4,013	3,194	6,971	5,773	3,338	1,942
Gold ...	3,040	12,771	1,372	5,762	3,672	15,432	3,807	15,979	2,063	8,656

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

There is practically no internal trade in the territory. Generally speaking, traders have dealings in the main with firms in the Union or Rhodesia. In a few isolated instances there are direct importations from Great Britain, Belgium, India, and elsewhere overseas, but in the absence of Customs statistics no particulars can be given. The export trade almost wholly comprises cattle, small stock and their by-products and, as it is governed by more or less arbitrary conditions, it has been more conveniently dealt with under the heading of "Production" as heretofore. To what was stated there the following paragraph may be added here :—

The cattle trade in the Tuli Block would be more lucrative if sales of stock (other than pedigree stock) for breeding purposes in the Transvaal could be allowed by the veterinary authorities. Such an embargo has for long prevailed against the entry of such cattle into the Southern Protectorate, but this has now been removed. This should improve the prospects of the Tuli Block settlers, who have always taken great pains to improve their cattle, in spite of the absence of a market for breeding stocks. The Ghanzi District is perhaps the finest cattle-rearing country in the territory and the cattle trade there is severely restricted as regards outlet, a difficulty which the Administration has now resolutely set itself to remove. It is the only industry upon which the European residents can depend for a livelihood.

Owing to the lack of the necessary statistics from traders, there would be little advantage in attempting to compare general trade conditions during 1928 with those of the financial year 1927–28 last under review. But the various magistrates' reports indicate that the set-back in trade noticed in the last report has continued throughout the year, and that the drought, which caused a high mortality among cattle, compelled the natives to exchange large numbers of their remaining stock for food. These conditions, coupled with the phenomenal price of hides prevailing in the earlier part of the year, resulted in stock-theft being particularly bad. No genuine case of starvation resulting in death was known. Natives in distress are generally helped by their fellows when they cannot help themselves.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

There are only three money-order savings banks and telegraph offices in the territory, viz., at Lobatsi, Serowe, and Francistown. Besides these, there are four postal-order and telegraph agencies, all on the railway line, and fourteen postal-order agencies. The postal work at all of these is controlled on behalf of the Administration by the Postmaster-General of the Union of South Africa; the telegraph work by the Postmaster-General of Southern Rhodesia, to which Government the telegraph lines along the railway line belong (except those constructed by the Railway Company), as well

as a telegraph-telephone line from Serowe to Macloutsie and Fort Tuli. Lobatsi has recently been connected with the trunk telephone system of the Union, and Mochudi with the railway line, these telephone lines being controlled by the Postmaster-General at Pretoria.

During the year 1927-28, the issues of postal and money orders totalled 13,780, with a value of £9,243, as against 16,239, valued at £9,282, during 1926-27.

In 1927-28, 4,276 orders were paid out, to the value of £3,985, as against 4,080, valued at £3,486, in 1926-27.

The rate of postage on letters posted within the territory for delivery therein or for delivery in the Union of South Africa, Southern and Northern Rhodesia, and the Province of Mozambique is 1*d.* for each ounce or fraction thereof ; to Great Britain and North Ireland and other British Possessions 2*d.* for each ounce or fraction thereof.

Agricultural post services at low rates have been instituted with the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

The main line of the Rhodesia Railways, Limited, 400 miles in length, runs through the eastern portion of the territory. This is the only line of railway.

At present the roads from railway stations and sidings to the principal villages serve for motor transport. Of these, the best of any considerable length are from Palapye Road to Serowe, constructed by the Serowe Automobile Club, and from Gaberones to Molepolole, constructed by the Administration. Having regard to the huge size of the territory and its exiguous resources, the Administration cannot as yet attempt more than rendering safe for motor traffic as many as possible of the existing tracks through the bush along the principal routes. The Bamangwato Chief is rendering useful assistance in his Reserve, and there is now a tolerably good road for motor traffic all the way from the north to the south of the territory, with the exception of the Gaberones-Sequani-Palla Camp section, which it is intended to deviate closer to the railway line. This work should be completed before the end of 1929.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

The number of cases adjudicated upon by officials of the Administration during the year 1927-28 was 1,090, as against 724 in 1926-27 and 554 in 1925-26.

There were 16 cases of homicide ; of these, five were acquitted, one death sentence was commuted to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, nine were sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour, and one was handed over to the Union Authorities for trial.

There were 54 cases of other offences against the person, in 47 of which conviction followed ; 175 offences against property, with 134 convictions ; and 845 prosecutions for other offences, in which 691 convictions followed.

POLICE.

The existing establishment is as follows :—

- 1 Inspector,
- 6 Sub-Inspectors,
- 24 European Non-Commissioned Officers,
- 1 Native Drill Corporal,
- 50 Mounted Native Police,
- 215 Dismounted Native Constables.

During the year, the Inspector of Police attended a Senior Officers' Refresher Course at the Military College, Pretoria, and one Sub-Inspector an Officers' Course at the South African Police Depot, Pretoria, by arrangement with the Union Authorities.

The Native Police Training Depot was transferred from Mafeking to Gaberones in November, and one squad of men was passed through with eminently satisfactory results. It is hoped to pass three squads, of approximately 20 men each, annually through the course of training which includes physical drill, rifle exercises, elementary musketry and simple lectures on Police duties.

Legislation affecting the Police.—Under High Commissioner's Notice No. 106 of 1928, provision was made for the grant of medals for long service and good conduct to non-commissioned officers and men, European and native.

PRISONS.

There is nothing to report in respect of the prisons of the territory for the year 1928.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

A considerable programme of public works was undertaken during the year, and in October an Engineer was appointed to take charge of the Department ; this appointment is in addition to the Superintending Clerk of Works, who had been in charge of buildings being erected departmentally.

Measures were taken to deal with the water supply question, and a light jumper drilling machine was purchased and a drill foreman was appointed. The type of machine was selected with a view to facilitating its transport in the desert, and at the end of the year arrangements were completed to start operations on the 300 mile route explored by Captain Clifford's expedition. The water supplies at several centres were improved and power-operated pumping plants were installed. In the Districts many wells were deepened owing to long periods of drought.

In connection with roads and bridges, a considerable amount of re-alignment and repairs to the former were undertaken, and two motor bridges were erected. Several causeways were repaired and investigations were made as to the feasibility of constructing permanent causeways across the more important rivers. Towards the end of the year, operations were commenced on a new road for rail motor service to bring cream from the Tuli Block to market.

Building operations were somewhat delayed owing to the necessity for organising and equipping this new Department. Effect was given to the principle of adopting standard types of buildings for the housing of officials wherever possible. A start was made of the construction of two hospitals of up-to-date type ; one in the Northern Protectorate at Serowe providing largely for native patients, and the other at Lobatsi in the Southern Protectorate for more general use.

A suitable farm at Lobatsi, over 4,200 acres in extent, was acquired, after a test had been made of the available water supply, which proved amply sufficient for the new hospital and for other Government purposes.

A start has been made with the fencing of the railway line (on behalf of the Rhodesian Railways Limited) for the 300 miles which have never been fenced, and 22 miles on one side were completed.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The health conditions throughout the territory for the calendar year 1928 have been more unfavourable than for many years past, by reason of a severe epidemic of malaria which swept over the southern part of the Protectorate, and continued from January till well into July. The mortality among the natives was unusually high, particularly in the vicinity of the periodical rivers and smaller watercourses which intersect this area—as the disease, in many instances, assumed a cerebral type. In sequel to this were inter-current affections, such as bronchitis and lobar pneumonia, which added to the gravity of the epidemic. Two European children died from the cerebral type of malaria.

In the northern portion of the territory, however, the records of disease were far more favourable, owing to the light rainfall there, as compared with the Southern Protectorate, where the rains were unusually heavy and frequent.

A mild form of smallpox (Alastrim) broke out in the eastern portion of the Caprivi Strip and in certain villages south of the Chobe river. There were no deaths. Over 2,000 persons were vaccinated. Four cases, with two deaths, of what appears to have been cerebro-spinal meningitis, were reported from Kachikau. Eight cases of leprosy were also found in the Kasane District, and steps have been taken to segregate them. For the epidemic of smallpox mentioned, no statistics are available.

Of other epidemic, endemic, and infectious diseases in other parts of the territory, the record is as follows :—

Influenza 17 ; broncho-pneumonia 2 ; lobar pneumonia 5, with 1 death ; leprosy 12 ; chickenpox 3 ; dysentery 14, with 2 deaths ; tuberculosis 14 ; cerebro-spinal meningitis 6, with 5 deaths ; anthrax 3 ; smallpox (Alastrim) 5 ; whooping cough 1.

The attendances for free anti-syphilitic treatment are well maintained, and testify to the desire, on the part of the native population,

to seek relief from this disease. The Acting Chief at Mochudi has been of great assistance to the Medical Officer there in encouraging his people to attend the dispensary instead of consulting witch-doctors, and his example will, doubtless, be a stimulus to others in the same direction. The returns of cases of general diseases treated at this centre during the year are the highest for any station in the Protectorate (6,572).

The returns for syphilitic cases treated are as follows :—

Gaberones 385, Mochudi 188, Serowe 526, Francistown 148, and Molepolole 203.

No statistics have come from Kanye and Lobatsi, as there has been no medical officer at the former station since June.

Increased vigilance in combating a possible invasion of plague from the Union is reflected in the appointment of two Rodent Inspectors for the Southern Protectorate, under the immediate supervision of the Medical Officer at Gaberones. These patrol the territory at the points most exposed to attack and furnish monthly reports, a copy of which is regularly sent to the Union Authorities at Pretoria. Some good work has already been done in this direction.

During the year, 831 rodents, rats and mice, were trapped and destroyed at the various stations throughout the Protectorate—almost double the number shown in the returns for the preceding year.

Operations have already commenced in connection with the erection of a hospital at Serowe. Good, potable water has been struck on the selected site, and the ground has been cleared for the foundation of the building. Plans for the southern hospital have also been approved, and provision made in the estimates for its erection as soon as a suitable site has been selected. The progress of these works, however, will fall to be recorded in the report for the next calendar year, within which they are likely to be completed.

The total returns for the year, excluding venereal diseases, are as follows :—

Mafeking :—Hospital admissions 27 ; outdoor attendances 66 ; no deaths.

Gaberones :—Hospital admissions 31 ; 2 deaths ; individual cases 1,539 or 5,806 attendances.

Serowe :—Hospital admissions 35 ; 3 deaths ; outdoor attendances 1,829.

Molepolole :—Total attendances 461 ; no deaths.

Mochudi :—Individual cases 6,572 ; total attendances 14,816 ; 15 deaths.

Francistown :—Hospital admissions 28 ; 1 death ; out-patients 3,049 ; 3 deaths.

It has not been considered advisable to wait for the N'gamiland returns, which may be indefinitely delayed owing to the Medical Officer's recent absence on sick leave.

IX.—EDUCATION.

During the year 1928 there were in the Bechuanaland Protectorate ten schools for European children, attended by approximately 263 pupils, one coloured school at Francistown containing 22 children, and 86 native schools with an attendance of approximately 6,522 pupils.

The schools, both European and native, are as a rule under the control of School Committees, and are generally presided over by the magistrate of the District, who pays periodical visits of inspection.

The European schools received Government grants-in-aid amounting to £1,790 during the financial year ended 31st March, 1928.

Education grants for primary education of £16 a head per annum are available for children of European residents, and a sum of £779 was expended on these during the year 1928. As from the 1st April, 1928, special bursaries, of £30 a head per annum, have been obtainable by children of European residents of the Bechuanaland Protectorate who have passed standard VI in the territory and are capable of availing themselves of secondary education at schools outside its boundaries, either in the Union or in Rhodesia. In this connection, £59 was expended during 1928.

The native schools are mostly under the aegis of Missionary societies, and, with the exception of the salary of the Principal of the National School at Mochudi, which is paid out of general revenue, they are mainly financed from the Native Fund, from which the amount of £4,253 was expended on education generally and on the upkeep of school buildings, etc., during 1927–28. In addition to their contribution to the Native Fund, the Bamangwato tribe defray almost entirely the expenses of their school at Serowe, which is a fine one with a good attendance.

An annual grant of £300 (£150 from the Government and £150 from the Native Fund) is made to the Tiger Kloof Institution for the training of native teachers, and grants of £300 from the general revenue and of £90 from the Native Fund have been made during 1927–28 to the London Missionary Society towards native education. An annual grant of £20 is also made to the native school at Andara in the Caprivi Strip.

The appointment of an Inspector of Education for the Bechuanaland Protectorate and Swaziland on the 1st December, 1928, should be productive of increased educational progress in the territory, which by reason of its large area and scattered villages has for long experienced the lack of constant direction and co-ordination in educational affairs by a technical officer.

Hitherto the Director of Education at Maseru has inspected the Protectorate schools only when he could spare time from his regular duties in Basutoland, and his visits have latterly had to be confined to a few weeks a year. He could undertake no inspection at all in 1928, but the European schools of the Lobatsi District and that at

Francistown were visited by the Principal at the National School at Mochudi and were, on the whole, favourably reported upon. The native school at Maun and those of the Kweneng District were specially instructed by the Magistrates of those respective Districts.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEYS.

Primarily, all the lands in the Protectorate belonged to the several native tribes to be found within its border, except that sovereignty over what is generally known as the Tati Concession, or Tati District, was claimed by Chief Khama of the Bamangwato and by the Matabele Chief Lobengula. In 1895, on behalf of their respective tribes, the Chiefs Khama, Sebele, and Bathoen abandoned certain territory. By Order in Council dated the 16th May, 1904, the territory thus abandoned was declared Crown lands and vested in His Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa, who was empowered to make grants or leases thereof on such terms and conditions as he might think fit subject to the directions of the Secretary of State.

An Order in Council passed on the 10th January, 1910, added to the Crown lands above-mentioned all other land in the Bechuanaland Protectorate elsewhere than in the Tati District, with the exception of (1) land included in any native reserve duly set apart by Proclamation, or the subject of any grant duly made by or on behalf of His Majesty, and (2) the 41 farms known as "the Barolong Farms," and vested such lands in the High Commissioner subject to the provisions of the Order in Council of the 16th May, 1904.

The doubts as to the ownership of the lands in the Tati District were resolved by an Order in Council passed on the 4th May, 1911, which vested these lands in His Majesty and empowered the High Commissioner to grant them to the Tati Concessions, Limited, in full ownership. This grant was effected by Proclamation No. 2 of 1911, including the right to all minerals and precious stones under the land.

The boundaries of the 41 Barolong Farms (which comprise all the land reserved to the Barolong Tribe within the Protectorate) were defined by Proclamation No. 1 of 1896. The boundaries of the Bamangwato, Batawana, Bakgatla, Bakwena, and Bangwaketse tribes were defined by Proclamation No. 9 of 1899 as amended by Proclamations Nos. 14 of 1907 and 55 of 1908 in respect of the Bakwena, and of the Bamalete tribe by Proclamation No. 28 of 1909. With the exception of five farms that had already been granted to pioneers by native chiefs, and certain land retained for Government purposes, the Crown land along the eastern border of the Protectorate was granted to the British South Africa Company by Proclamations Nos. 4, 12, and 13 of 1905.

Certain settlers to whom the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes had, under the Charter of the British South Africa Company, granted tracts of land in the Ghanzi District were in 1898 and 1899 confirmed in their holdings by the High Commissioner on certain conditions including

the payment of an annual quitrent at the rate of £5 per thousand morgen (a morgen—2·1165 English acres.).

Apart from trading sites, which usually do not exceed 50 yards by 50 yards in extent, ten farms of 1,000 morgen each and one of 5,000 morgen have been leased by the Government to European settlers at an annual rental of £5 and £25 respectively. These leases are renewable annually. As a rule, preference is given to persons of European descent who are already domiciled within the territory.

Under an agreement between the Administration and the Imperial Cold Storage and Supply Company, Limited, signed in June, 1925, 250,000 morgen of Crown land on the northern bank of the Molopo river has been placed at the disposal of the Company free of charge for twenty-five years, in consideration of the Company having agreed to erect cold storage and refrigerating works within the territory and to purchase a minimum of 10,000 Protectorate cattle annually for use in such works.

The Crown lands remaining available for disposal comprise about 108,000 square miles.

The British South Africa Company and the Tati Company, Limited, have disposed of to European settlers a considerable quantity of the land placed at their disposal by the above-mentioned proclamations.

No surveys have been made of any land within the territory, except where such land has been granted to private corporations or individuals.

There are no irrigation works on any large scale within the territory. Apart from the rivers Marico, Limpopo, Zambesi, and Chobe, and apart from the Okovango marshes and their outlets, there are practically no surface waters, except in the rainy season. The Rhodesia Railways, Limited, have constructed several dams in connection with the working of the railway line, viz. :—

<i>Capacity in Gallons.</i>					
Lobatsi	...	...	...	...	15,000,000
Metsimaswaana (Notwani Siding)	...	...	...	...	45,000,000
Mileage 1197	...	...	...	...	5,000,000
Palapye	...	...	...	...	15,000,000
Tsessebe (Inchwe river)	...	...	...	...	12,000,000
Pilane	...	...	...	...	9,000,000

Water-boring and well-sinking operations undertaken in the neighbourhood of the railway line and at Serowe by the Administration, farmers, and others have generally yielded good results. In March, 1928, the services of the Chief Boring Superintendent of the Union (Mr. F. E. Leeson) were lent to the Administration by the Union Government, and much useful advice towards this end was obtained from him. A tour through the Tati District of the Southern Rhodesian Boring Superintendent (Mr. C. A. Anderson) was arranged with his Government in May, and his advice was given to the farmers

there and to the Tati Company. Chief Isang Pilane of the Bakgatla Tribe has been particularly enterprising in boring for water in his Reserve. After the £500 appropriated from the Native Fund had been expended, he devoted £1,200 of tribal money to the purpose. Out of 16 holes sunk, 7 yielded excellent results at no great depth.

Several attempts have been made by the Administration to open up the underground waters to the west in the Kalahari Desert. These have so far yielded only meagre results, but the Administration has not been in a position to offer very attractive terms, taking into consideration the geographical and other physical difficulties of the case. When water is struck, it is sometimes too brackish. The opinion, however, has often been expressed that by deep boring plentiful supplies of good water will be found, and the waterless and useless tract of land now known as the Kalahari Desert may yet be transformed into one of the finest ranching countries in the world.

The Administration have made arrangements to send a drilling machine into the Desert to bore for water every fifty miles along the new route from the railway line to Ghanzi explored by Captain Clifford (Imperial Secretary).

XI.—LABOUR.

Labour conditions, as understood in Europe and America, have scarcely as yet developed in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. Such little labour as is required by European firms and residents is regulated by the old Masters and Servants Acts of the Cape Colony as in force in the territory. For native tribal purposes from time immemorial necessary labour has been performed by "regiments," through which all, high and low, must pass and which must obey the chief's orders. There is nothing of servitude about it; it is a matter of self-help and utility and tribal discipline. Since 1925, whenever it has become necessary to make use of such regiments for Government purposes, payment is made to the individuals for their labour.

No native labour is imported into the territory.

Labour for service on the Witwatersrand gold mines, the Natal coal mines, and the diamond mines of South West Africa is recruited under the conditions imposed by the Native Labour Proclamation No. 45 of 1907 as subsequently amended, which amply protects the liberty of the labourer. Only in the case of South West Africa may labour be engaged from the tropical regions lying north of latitude 22° South. Many natives find their own way from the Southern Protectorate to the adjacent diamond diggings.

XII.—VETERINARY.

Lung sickness.—It is satisfactory to note, with the exception of further cases at the Lotlhokhane outbreak and some cases produced by inoculation at Rakops, there were no fresh outbreaks anywhere in the territory.

A constant watch was kept, particularly in the Bamangwato Reserve and the Andara district, and regular patrols of their respective areas were maintained by all stock inspectors and native inoculators.

At Lotlhokhane, the disease appeared among calves which had been born since the general inoculation took place, and was undoubtedly due to infection from a "lunger." Altogether eleven calves were killed, the last being on 21st May, but all in-contact cattle, numbering 1,006 head, were kept in quarantine in order that they might be dealt with under the new scheme.

At Rakops and Mopepi, 3,000 clean cattle were inoculated, and unfortunately in one instance the disease was produced by the injection of a contaminated virus. In all, eight animals were destroyed, but as there was no possibility of a "lunger" remaining amongst the herd, the in-contacts were liberated after the expiry of the usual period of quarantine.

Quarantine Camp.—During the year, the whole of the eastern area, which is to form the new quarantine camp, was fenced, cross-fenced to divide it into three sections, and water-boring operations completed.

Boring for water in the area has given results which were somewhat disappointing, but by cleaning out a permanent water at Mokoro, known as "Smiths Wells," deepening and lining it to a depth of ten feet, a large supply, which the pumping plant available was unable to exhaust, was obtained. This, with a supply of 12,000 gallons per diem obtained at a depth of 386 feet in the centre of the area, and a further small supply of 3,000 gallons per diem at a depth of 500 feet in the north-eastern corner, will, however, be sufficient for all present requirements.

For exchange purposes under the new scheme, the Administration purchased 380 cattle which, on 31st December, were running in the centre camp of this area, on which date the first mob of 200 animals was being brought down from Lotlhokhane.

Anthrax.—A great step forward in the eradication of this disease was made by the introduction of a free issue of anthrax vaccine to all natives requiring it.

This vaccine is paid for out of the Native Fund, to which all tribes contribute, thus eliminating the objection of the individual owner who often delayed the inoculation on account of the cost of the vaccine.

Since this free issue was inaugurated, the demand for vaccine has greatly increased, and the stock inspectors formerly employed on lung sickness work have been busily engaged in inoculating native herds against anthrax, giving demonstrations at the chief stads, and in other ways interesting the owner in measures of eradication.

Following the recommendation of the European Advisory Council at its ninth meeting, the cost of both quarter evil and anthrax vaccines has been reduced to 3d. per dose to the white residents of the territory.

This also will cause an increased demand for anthrax vaccine and considerably assist the Administration in the eventual eradication of the disease.

In order to prevent the possibility of anthrax-infected animals being sent out of the territory for export overseas, regulations were introduced in the northern areas whereby all intended consignments were inoculated against anthrax by a member of the Veterinary staff, at least one month, and not longer than six months, before trucking. A numerical brand indicating month of inoculation is placed on all cattle so inoculated, and it is the intention to continue these regulations during 1929.

Quarter Evil.—This disease has been prevalent during the year, and there is no doubt that there are many more deaths than those reported. In all notified cases, the in-contact animals up to 2 years' old were quarantined and inoculated.

Liver Disease of Calves.—This disease continues to be of a milder type throughout the greater part of the territory and losses have been correspondingly few, although in certain areas a virulency equal to that of the original outbreak has been noticed.

Dourine.—A case was reported in a stallion in the Macloutsie district in February and the animal was immediately destroyed. No laboratory test was carried out to confirm the diagnosis as it would have meant delay, but the symptoms described were such as to leave little doubt as to the nature of the disease.

Trypanosomiasis.—Owing to many animals brought out from N'gamiland for export contracting this disease, a new road was explored. This new road is believed to be completely "fly-free," as a wide detour is made to avoid all known "fly-belts." A number of transport animals have travelled along it, and the blood of 2,000 export cattle, which were exported by this road, has been microscopically examined, with the result that in no single case have trypanosomes been found.

Heartwater.—This disease continues to take a heavy annual toll in the Protectorate, and will continue to do so until owners resort to regular dipping and hand dressing.

On three farms in the Francistown District, the losses during the year from heartwater were reported by the Government Veterinary Officer to be 100, 80, and 60, respectively, while on a farm in the Lobatsi District the disease was reported to have exterminated the herd of small stock in previous years and was now taking a heavy toll of the calves.

These losses are generally due to irregular or careless dipping, or failure to hand dress in addition to dipping. It should also be remembered that in the control of heartwater and other tick-borne diseases fencing comes next to dipping in importance.

Scab.—In April and May the simultaneous dipping of small stock in conjunction with similar operations by the Union Govern-

ment took place along the border on the Barolong Farms and Crown lands for a distance of one hundred miles west of Ramathlabama.

During the year, the Scab Clauses of the Diseases of Stock Regulations 1926 were applied to the Bangwaketsi Reserve.

In October the Chief Veterinary Officer, accompanied by a Sheep Inspector, visited the Khuis, Taabon, and Mobel areas to report on the condition of small stock in those districts. As a result of this inspection the Crown lands north of the Molopo river were also brought under the Scab Regulations.

The Ramathlabama Quarantine Camp for small stock for export has handled 2,210 animals. I regret to state that 98 per cent. of the consignments received were found to be infected, and the majority had to receive three dippings before they were cleansed.

The work of scab eradication has continued in the Gaberones and Lobatsi districts and Bakwena Reserve with satisfactory results.

Cattle Exports.—The following is the number of animals exported during the year :—

Cattle—

To the Johannesburg Abattoir	11,124
Overseas, via Durban	8,734
To the Belgian Congo, via Kazangula	5,882
To Angola, ex N'gamiland	2,752
Total	28,492

Small Stock—

To Union	2,283
To Rhodesia	14,216
Total	16,499

Pigs—

To Union	2,143
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Imports.—The following animals were imported into the territory:—

Cattle	814
Horses	307
Mules	144
Pigs	90
Donkeys	1,247
Sheep and Goats	1,790

Vaccines.—The following vaccines were supplied during the year :—

Anthrax	50,190 doses.
Quarter Evil	13,805 „
Horsesickness	40 „
Redwater and Gallsickness	28 „
Contagious Abortion	50 „
Wire Worm remedy	5,500 „

A Native Agricultural Demonstrator was engaged for the first time during the month of August and stationed in the Chobe district.

It is with regret that I record the death in October of Stock Inspector and Honorary Sub-Inspector C. E. Betts, who had been employed by the Administration since 1914, while on leave in England.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

N'GAMILAND FLOODS 1927-1928.

Reported by the Resident Magistrate, N'gamiland, dated Maun, 6th December, 1928.

The rainfall during the 1927-28 season was extremely small, only 12.99 inches being registered at Maun.

The rainfall during the same period at Andara was normal, viz., 25 inches.

The Mission at Andara registered a lower-flood level in 1928 than in 1927, in fact two feet less. This was said to be due to a lower rainfall in Angola.

The Thamalakane river at Maun commenced to rise on 1st June, 1928, and reached its highest level on 20th August, 1928, when it registered 1 ft. 9 inches above normal, a drop of 1 ft. 8½ inches compared to last year. The water began to drop on 8th September, 1928, and is at present much lower than it was in December last year.

On 15th July, 1928, I proceeded in the large aluminium boat to Andara via the Boro river, through the swamps and Okovango river.

I returned via the same route on 16th August, 1928. On this journey I used the motor engine wherever practicable, that is, when the weeds and reeds which abound in the swamps permitted. There are several stretches even in the swamps where I made use of motor power, and I was able to do so all the way up the Okovango to Mohembo. From this point to the Popa Falls there were numerous rocks and it is safer to paddle.

I found plenty of water in the swamps for the large boat in certain channels, but it is necessary to have an experienced guide who knows these channels well, otherwise one would find it difficult to get through without a lot of pushing.

I returned from Andara in 12 days, distance 345 miles, which goes to prove that I had no difficulty in the swamps.

I found the current in the Okovango river very strong, running at about 4 to 5 miles an hour.

On 23rd September, 1928, I proceeded in the aluminium boat to Makalamabedi on the Botletle river and found plenty of water all the way with the exception of Matebele drift, where it was necessary to push the boat carefully between the rocks.

The Lake river, known as the Toten river, reached the lake this year, but the volume of the water was about half that of last year.

The Kunyere river, which runs past Toten, also reached the lake but, like the Toten river, with only half the volume of water of last year. The drift at Toten was impassable for motor-cars from August to November, but wagons were able to cross.

The Mokolane river at Tsau filled with water in the last week in June and only reached a point about 18 miles south of Tsau. It is anticipated that this river will be dry by Christmas.

There was less water in the lake this year than last, but there is still a fair amount of water remaining. The flood water between Tsau, Nokanen, and Gomare was less than last year, though the usual area was flooded. It is drying up rapidly.

C. L. O'B. DUTTON,
Government Secretary.

20th April, 1929.

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CONTENTS.

	Page.
PREFACE	2
I. GENERAL	6
II. FINANCE	9
III. PRODUCTION	11
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	17
V. COMMUNICATIONS	20
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	23
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	25
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH	26
IX. EDUCATION	28
X. LAND AND SURVEY	29
XI. LABOUR	32
XII. MISCELLANEOUS	32
MAP	

Preface.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

1. The territories comprising the Uganda Protectorate lie between the Belgian Congo, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Kenya, and Tanganyika Territory. The Protectorate extends from about parallel 1° South latitude to the northern limits of the navigable waters of the Victoria Nile at Nimule. On the east its boundary extends from Mount Zulia, on the Sudan border along the Turkana Escarpment to the crater of Mount Elgon (14,140 feet), and runs thence along the Malawa and the Sio rivers into the north-eastern waters of Lake Victoria; whilst the outstanding features on the western side are the Nile watershed, Lake Albert, the River Semliki, the Ruwenzori Range (16,794 feet), and Lake Edward.

HISTORICAL SURVEY.

2. The first British explorers to visit the country were Speke and Grant during their search for the Nile in 1862. Samuel Baker discovered Lake Albert shortly afterwards. Stanley reached Buganda in 1875, and was greatly struck with the intelligence of

the natives. As the result of his appeal, the first band of missionaries arrived in June, 1877, followed two years later by a party of French Catholics. Both denominations quickly gained adherents, but on the accession of King Mwanga a systematic persecution of the Christians was inaugurated with the murder of Bishop Hannington in 1885. Mwanga was deposed by joint action of the Christians and Mohammedans in 1888, and fled to the Sesse Islands in Lake Victoria. Religious antagonism soon revived, and the Christians were compelled to leave the country. They returned in 1889, and, after severely defeating the Mohammedans, restored Mwanga to his kingdom.

3. Negotiations between the British and German Governments during the following year definitely placed Uganda under British influence, and Captain Lugard (now Rt. Hon. Lord Lugard, G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O.) proceeded inland on behalf of the Imperial British East Africa Company, and, despite opposition from the French missionaries, obtained Mwanga's signature, on the 26th December, 1890, to a treaty giving the British the right to intervene in the internal affairs of Buganda. This proved the signal for armed attacks from both Mohammedans and Catholic factions, and resulted in fighting, in which the Sudanese levies, collected by Captain Lugard to maintain his authority, with difficulty repulsed both their opponents' forces in detail. King Mwanga, who had sided with the French, escaped to German territory at Bukoba. He was persuaded ultimately to return, and an agreement was drawn up granting the Catholic and Mohammedan parties definite spheres of influence in Buganda. In 1892 the British East Africa Company found themselves unable to bear the expense of the country's administration any longer, and the British Government sent out a Commissioner to report on the advisability of establishing a Protectorate. The Commissioner, Sir Gerald Portal, hoisted the British flag soon after his arrival in the country in March, 1893. He concluded a provisional treaty with Mwanga but was forced by ill-health and the strain caused by factional jealousies, to leave the country after a stay of only $2\frac{1}{2}$ months. From the establishment of the British Protectorate comparative quiet ensued for three years, until Mwanga instigated a rebellion, which was defeated by the Sudanese forces under the Acting Commissioner, Colonel Ternan. Mwanga once more fled the country, his infant son, Daudi Chwa, the present ruler, being proclaimed King, or "Kabaka," at Kampala, under the guidance of three Regents. Discontent soon afterwards arose among a section of the Sudanese force; Mwanga returned to join the mutineers, aided by Kabarega, the rebel King of the Banyoro. Fortunately the Baganda remained loyal, and the outbreak was quelled after a year's fighting during which several British officers lost their lives. Mwanga and Kabarega were captured and deported. Since the early part of 1899 the country has been peaceful and British administration has spread over the neighbouring tribes.

Control was extended over Busoga and Bunyoro on the 3rd July, 1896, whilst the arrangements for the inclusion of the other peoples within the existing frontiers were effected by Sir H. H. Johnston, between the years 1900 and 1902. At this time the boundaries of the Uganda Protectorate extended as far east as Lake Rudolf and the Laikipia and Kikuyu escarpments, including a large area of what is now Kenya Colony: in the north it reached Gondokoro, subsequently included in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and in the west included much country, part of the dominions of Kabarega, which has since been ceded to the Belgian Congo. Arrangements with the native Governments of Buganda, Toro, and Ankole were negotiated by the same Commissioner for the purpose of regulating the native administrations and defining their relations with the Suzerain Power. It was found advisable to suspend the Ankole Agreement in 1905, after the murder of the British Sub-Commissioner but the subsequent loyalty of the natives justified the restoration of their privileges in 1912. Apart from this incident, the population has acquiesced in European rule, and only unimportant disturbances have occurred in outlying districts. The opening of the Uganda Railway from Mombasa to Lake Victoria in the early years of this century, and the subsequent installation of a steamer service on the Lake, proved a valuable stimulus to development, and have been largely responsible for the country's rapid progress in the thirty years of British Administration.

4. During the Great War Uganda contributed in no small measure to the success of the operations in German East Africa. In the early part of the War, hostilities, in so far as Uganda was immediately concerned, were limited to outpost actions on the southern frontier, which was defended by the Police Service Battalion (native ranks officered by Europeans) together with native levies who were later organised as the Baganda Rifles. These forces were subsequently augmented by a company of the King's African Rifles and a battalion of Indian Infantry, the 13th Rajputs, while the necessary auxiliary services were organised locally. In the advance into German territory in 1916, and in the subsequent stages of the campaign, the native population of Uganda was largely drawn upon to maintain the personnel of the Carrier Corps and the King's African Rifles, while the great majority of the European non-official population and as many officials as could be spared from an inadequate civil establishment were enrolled in the local forces. There were 38,310 natives recruited for the Uganda Transport Corps (Carrier Section), as well as 1,741 as stretcher-bearers, etc.; 3,576 porters were supplied to the East African Carrier Corps, and 5,763 for service in German and Portuguese East Africa; and a special Congo Carrier Corps, for which 8,429 porters were raised, materially assisted General Tombeur and the Belgian forces in the capture of Tabora. In addition to the above, five battalions of the 4th King's African Rifles were raised and trained in the Protectorate. To

provide for the full complement and to make allowance for wastage, over 10,000 men were required. Finally, in 1917, the African Native Medical Corps was recruited, with the co-operation of the Missions, from the ranks of the educated natives, and attained a strength of 1,000 including European personnel.

5. The year 1919 was marked by a famine of unusual severity, causing many deaths from starvation. The spread of rinderpest, an epidemic disease amongst Uganda cattle, increased to an alarming extent during the same year, but the stringent measures employed were successful in limiting the outbreak. In a much less serious degree these conditions were repeated in 1927-28.

6. Great impetus has been given to the cotton industry in recent years, and increased output from this source is being reflected in the expansion of trade and in the general development of activities within the Protectorate.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONS.

7. The Protectorate was divided originally into six Provinces, but on the revised delimitation of the Eastern boundary in 1903 these were reduced to five—Buganda, Eastern, Western, Northern, and Rudolf—and at the beginning of 1926 a further re-adjustment of the boundary excluded the Rudolf Province from the Protectorate. Until a survey of the country has been completed, it is not possible to furnish accurate statistics. For all practical purposes, however, the Protectorate may be said to cover an area of approximately 94,204 square miles, of which 15,017 square miles is water.

8. The population on the 31st December, 1928, was estimated to be 3,255,367, viz., 1,978 Europeans, 11,846 Asiatics, and 3,241,543 native inhabitants.

LANGUAGE.

9. For fourteen years Luganda, the language of Baganda, who constitute roughly one-sixth of the indigenous population, was recognised as the "official" local language. Measures have now been adopted, however, to introduce Kiswahili, the general *lingua franca* of Eastern Africa, as the dominant language for educational and administrative purposes throughout a considerable area of the Protectorate. Each tribe, however, continues to use locally its own language. Thus in the north of the Protectorate and in parts of the Eastern Province Nilotic languages are spoken; and elsewhere, languages which can be classed neither as Bantu nor Nilotic but which are an intermixture of both are current.

CURRENCY.

10. Prior to 1920, the rupee currency was in circulation in Uganda, but during 1920 the florin currency was introduced. In 1922 this

in its turn was displaced by the shilling currency which is now in use in the Protectorate, although the florin currency and notes, which are gradually being withdrawn, are still legal tender. The following coins and notes of the shilling currency are in circulation :—

Coin :

Sh.1, which is legal tender for an unlimited amount.

50 cents. (=6*d.*), which is legal tender for any amount up to 20*s.*

10 cents. = $1\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* }
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Notes :

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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

12. The weights and measures in common use in the Protectorate are the Imperial weights and measures.

I.—GENERAL.

13. The year 1928 was one of partial recovery after the two depressing incidents of 1927—the low price and production of cotton, and the lack of rain. Both had had an adverse effect on the revenue of the Protectorate, and the latter had been the cause of famine in several districts, which was not relieved until the effect of the March rains of 1928 began to be felt. Cotton exports gradually improved and exceeded in value those of 1927 by £784,489. The Protectorate revenue increased in proportion and it was possible once more to add a substantial sum to surplus balances and to continue with the forward policy which the necessity for economy in the previous year had to a certain extent retrenched. The exports of tin ore from Ankole District showed no signs of falling off and the tin-bearing area has been found to be greater than was previously thought.

14. The extension of the main line of the Kenya and Uganda Railway to Jinja was completed at the end of 1927, and was opened on 11th January. The effect of the extension on the traffic from Uganda to the coast is reflected in the figures for goods passing

through Jinja, of which the railway now carries 22,000 tons and the Lake steamers only 9,400. The work of carrying on this line to Kampala is fast forging ahead, and it is hoped that its construction, which includes the building of a combined rail and road bridge across the Nile, will be completed in 1930. The elimination of the ferry crossing will considerably shorten the road journey between the two towns. The branch railway line from Tororo to Soroti was opened to traffic for a distance of 35 miles beyond Mbale, and construction has proceeded considerably further.

15. The year was remarkable for the rapid development of air traffic in Eastern Africa, and though the experimental stage is not yet entirely passed, it seems safe to predict that the trial flights undertaken in 1928 will lead to the establishment of a regular mail and passenger carrying service between Great Britain and the Cape, which will include Uganda in its route.

16. Progress was also made in the modernisation of the two largest townships of the Protectorate by the completion of the pipe-borne water supply at Jinja and the inception of one for Kampala. Drainage systems will naturally follow.

17. The recommendations of the League of Nations International Sleeping Sickness Commission for the control of the disease and of infected areas were largely embodied in a new Sleeping Sickness Ordinance enacted at the end of the year. The necessity for concerted measures of control between Uganda and the neighbouring territories is fully recognized by the local Medical authorities. The Entebbe laboratory remains the East African centre of research into human trypanosomiasis. Difficulties in connection with the work are being experienced in several directions. It has not yet been decided what part of the cost of the Institute is to be borne by Uganda and what part by the other East Africa Governments interested in the work. Nor has it been settled whether the Institute is to be regarded as a purely temporary or permanent organization. The Director is anxious that to the duties of the Institute which, at present, is concerned only with human trypanosomiasis, should be added research into animal trypanosomiasis, especially as far as the transmission of animal trypanosomes by tsetse is concerned.

18. Much valuable work in connection with the treatment of lepers, of whom considerable numbers exist in the Protectorate, has been begun in the Eastern Province by the recently established local branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association.

19. Threatening outbreaks of rinderpest occurred in widely scattered parts of the Protectorate during the year, but were eventually got under without assuming disastrous proportions.

20. Apart from famine, Native Affairs remain satisfactory. Unfortunately weather conditions were unsatisfactory, with the result that there was in some districts a total failure of crops and in others there were considerable shortages. These conditions had been anticipated and measures were taken in good time to import and distribute food to those in need of it. Accurate accounts of food distribution were kept and the larger part of the cost was, or will be, recovered by individual payments. The Protectorate and Native Governments will meet the balance. But it is the policy of Government not to distribute free rations, as otherwise the natives do little or nothing to provide against emergencies. They are being encouraged to maintain food reserves. Native cultivation of coffee continues to make rapid progress, and a most successful start has been made with tobacco.

21. A new Land Tax Law was passed in Buganda Province, which will result in the native landowner class contributing more in proportion to their wealth towards the expenses of the native administration.

22. By the death of the Mukama of Toro the Protectorate lost another of the outstanding personalities of the days before British administration. Kasagama was placed on the throne of Toro by Captain (now Lord) Lugard in 1892 after his rescue from exile, into which he had gone as a youth to escape from the hands of Kabarega. He had received the O.B.E. for his service during the Great War. His son succeeds him.

23. An outstanding event of the year was the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to Uganda in September and October. All classes of the community vied in welcoming the Prince at every centre visited by him in the course of his comprehensive tour of the Protectorate. It is the wish of all that he may find an opportunity before long to pay the country another visit.

24. The Protectorate was also glad to welcome the members of the Hilton Young Commission on Closer Union of the Eastern and Central African Dependencies. The Commission was in Uganda from January 16th until the 26th, arriving by the Nile route, and in the course of their stay interviewed representatives of all communities and important interests. Their report was awaited early in 1929.

25. The death of Mr. P. W. Cooper, O.B.E., removed an old and trusted servant of the Protectorate, who had done much to foster the confidence and friendly relations that exist between the Protectorate Government and the native population.

II.—FINANCE.**General Position.**

26. The Surplus Balance on the 31st December, 1928, amounted to £1,240,253. The budget for the year was framed to produce an increase to the Surplus Balance of £17,000, whereas the actual increase has amounted to £151,049. The revenue for the year was in excess of the estimate to the extent of £150,037, mainly due to increased receipts from Customs, Cotton Tax, and Poll Taxes arising from a larger cotton crop than was anticipated, while expenditure exceeded the estimate by £15,988.

27. The subjoined table gives the final results for the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>			<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Surplus Balance.</i>
			£	£	£
1924	...	...	1,239,789	918,662	762,957
1925	...	...	1,479,284	1,108,396	1,133,845
1926	...	...	1,389,641	1,295,612	1,227,874
1927	...	...	1,292,306	1,430,976	1,089,204
1928	...	...	1,519,237	1,368,188	1,240,253

Revenue.

28. The collections for the year amounted to £1,519,237, an increase of approximately 17.5 per cent. on the receipts for 1927. While most sources of revenue exceeded the 1927 level, the main increases are from Customs, Cotton Tax, and Poll Taxes. The increase under Cotton Tax is due partly to the increase of the tax from 2 cts. per lb. in 1927 to 6 cts. per lb. in 1928, and partly to the greater crop produced in the latter year. An increase in the cotton crop affects many sources of revenue, especially Customs.

Expenditure.

29. Ordinary expenditure (exclusive of loan) was estimated at £1,352,200, but it actually amounted to £1,368,188.

LOANS.

30. The following table gives the position in regard to loans to the end of the current year :—

<i>Designation and amount of loan.</i>	<i>Amount received.</i>		<i>Sinking fund repaid and interest thereon.</i>		<i>Balance outstanding on 31/12/1928.</i>		<i>Remarks.</i>
	£	£	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	
Busoga Railway	170,000	170,000	35,650	14 11	134,349	5 1	Interest $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Sinking fund at the rate of 1 per cent.
Kampala-Port-Bell Railway and improvements in the communications in the Eastern Province.	125,000	125,000	30,210	16 0	94,789	4 0	Interest $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Sinking fund at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
Imperial Loans Ordinance, 1915 (Railway and Road Development).	329,000	329,000	9,336	5 7	319,663	14 5	Loan received in instalments on various dates. Repayment by means of annuities of interest and sinking fund.
Development Loan for general services	550,000	550,000	—	—	550,000	0 0	To be repaid to the Imperial Treasury by the Uganda Government raising a loan.
			£1,174,000	£75,197 16 6	£1,098,802	3 6	

Note : £374,851 of the Public Debt was expended on Railways and Marine Services, the interest and sinking fund charges on which are refunded to the Uganda Government by the Kenya and Uganda Railway Administration.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

COTTON.

31. The total value of domestic produce exported from the Protectorate during the year amounted to £3,395,267 compared with £2,310,260 for the preceding twelve months.

32. The value of ginned cotton exported amounted to £2,475,327, representing 138,486 bales and approximately 72.9 per cent. of the total exports, compared with £1,690,838 in 1927.

33. Following the period of famine conditions which had prevailed in parts of the Eastern and Northern Provinces at the close of the previous year and which continued for the first few months of 1928, the climate conditions were favourable for the planting of food crops, and, with these well established by May, the preparation of land for cotton became general. Cotton planting was started at the end of May and the weather conditions during the sowing season were generally satisfactory throughout the Protectorate, except in Lango District of the Eastern Province, where very heavy rains were experienced.

34. It was estimated that the total acreage planted by natives in the Protectorate with cotton amounted to 698,800 acres, of which 447,130 were in the Eastern Province and 200,000 in the Buganda Province. This total was approximately 165,796 acres more than the total (533,004 acres) planted in 1927, and was due to the large increase in the area under cotton in the Eastern Province.

35. The second or short rains were generally normal except in Lango District of the Eastern Province, where the rainfall was unusually heavy and had an adverse effect on the cotton crop. At the end of the year the prospects of a good crop being obtained were very promising, although in the northern parts of Teso District an outbreak of "blackarm" disease indicated a reduced yield in that area, and cotton "stainers" were also more numerous than usual.

36. As in the preceding year, a period of four weeks from the beginning of the cotton-buying season, which opened in January, was prescribed during which no raw cotton other than "good" could be bought or sold in all districts in the Eastern and Buganda Provinces. This regulation again had a beneficial effect in raising the average standard of the lint exported.

37. In Buganda Province the ginning firms combined to form an association for the purchase of raw cotton in the Buganda Province, and this combination handled the bulk of the crop. The objects

of the association as explained by those responsible for its formation were to reduce costs of buying, ginning, and transporting cotton and to pay a fair price to the producer. Similar associations have since been formed in the Eastern Province. These associations have given rise to considerable controversy and are regarded with some suspicion by native producers, and "middlemen" buyers are definitely antagonistic to them.

38. The tax in 1928 on cotton lint exported from the Protectorate was 6 cents ($\frac{3}{4}d.$) per lb. of lint, and realised £164,483 compared with £51,478 the previous year when the tax was 2 cents per lb. This tax, since January, 1927, when the Cotton (Tax) Ordinance 1926 came into force, is now based for calculation on a sliding scale according to the closing price of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange on the 14th, 15th, or 16th day of December, whichever shall be the last day on which business is done in respect of June American "Middling" Futures. The tax is remitted when the Liverpool price is $6d.$ or less, and rises to 9 cents when the Liverpool price exceeds $15d.$

39. The extension of the Kenya and Uganda Railway to Jinja was opened for traffic early in January, 1928, and further extensions northwards from Tororo towards Soroti were under construction during the year. With the approaching completion of this branch the greater portion of the cotton crop from the Eastern Province will be railed direct to Mombasa, and the number of transhipments reduced. Large numbers of motor lorries and light motor vans were again on the roads in connection with the collection and transport to ginneries and markets of the cotton crop.

40. The number of ginneries which took out licences to gin and bale cotton during the year was 164 as compared with 186 in 1927. Of this number 146 actually worked, compared with 177 the previous year. The number of factories already built is in excess of the requirements of the cotton industry and no fresh sites for the erection of ginneries were granted during the year.

41. In the local market, transactions in baled cotton were again numerous and particulars of registered contracts representing 125,307 bales were recorded. Of the 138,486 bales exported in 1928 from Uganda 49,304 went to the United Kingdom, 76,304 to India, and 12,728 to Japan. India, however, re-exports to both countries when markets are favourable.

42. Exports of cotton seed amounted to 45,506 tons valued at £323,110, compared with 29,500 tons valued at £170,303 in 1927.

COFFEE.

43. The acreage under *coffea arabica* grown by non-natives remains at approximately the same figure as last year, since, although

some new plantings have taken place in the Toro District of the Western Province, other areas where the climatic conditions are not so suitable for this variety of coffee show reductions. The acreage for 1928 is given as 12,951. The area under *coffea robusta* on estates owned by non-natives shows an increase of 775 acres and is recorded as being 5,457 acres. This type of coffee shows signs of gradually replacing *coffea arabica* in the lower and more humid parts of the country.

44. The native coffee industry made steady progress during the year and large numbers of plants of *coffea robusta* were issued to growers from central nurseries. This is the variety of coffee which is encouraged in the Buganda Province and in the low-lying Bwamba County of Toro, and work on the selection of the best types has occupied the attention of the Department of Agriculture. The estimated acreage under native-grown *coffea robusta* is now 6,500. *Coffea arabica* is also grown by natives in various parts of the Protectorate, but is only actively encouraged in the Bugishu District, where a small but flourishing industry has been established for many years; and, recently, in the Ankole and Kigezi districts of the Western Province. The acreage under *coffea arabica* in Bugishu increased during the year from 844 in 1927 to 1,134, and the season's crop amounted to approximately 150 tons.

45. The exports of coffee from the Protectorate during the year amounted to 40,355 cwt. valued at £164,187, compared with 43,514 cwt. valued at £170,407 in 1927.

RUBBER.

46. Para rubber (*Hevea Braziliensis*) is grown by non-natives to the extent of 12,939 acres. A negligible acreage is also grown by natives. Exports continued to decline, as against 1,446,300 lb. in 1927, 1,131,200 lb. were exported in 1928. These quantities were valued at £82,077 and £54,978, respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.

47. *Sugar*.—The sugar factory established in 1925 by Indian enterprise at Lugazi, between Kampala and Jinja, enlarged during the year to a capacity of 5,000 tons. The local market absorbs most of the output, but during the year 2,749 cwt. valued at £4,434 were exported to other territories. Power alcohol and methylated spirits are also produced at this factory. The acreage under sugar cane in connection with it amounts to 6,312 acres.

48. *Tobacco*.—The experimental work in connection with the establishment of a tobacco industry was continued in Bunyoro and steady progress was made. Several European planters have experi-

mented with this crop both in Bunyoro and in Buganda and some excellent crops have been grown. Natives in Bunyoro showed great interest in tobacco and, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture and of a representative of British American Tobacco Company, raised a crop of approximately 50,000 lb. of cured leaf, which was purchased by the British American Tobacco Company for use in their cigarette factory established during the year at Jinja.

49. There is little doubt that in time tobacco will become one of the most important products in Uganda. In the present state of the Home market, however, it would be unwise to encourage too rapid an extension of tobacco cultivation. Endeavour must be made to ascertain what are the varieties most suitable to local conditions, to see that the best seed is supplied, and that native growers especially are taught how to cultivate and cure tobacco, so as to ensure that good quality tobacco is produced.

50. Tobacco figured in the exports for the first time as 8,539 lb., valued at £327.

51. *Tea*.—The acreage under tea was extended from 239 to 297 acres and interest in this crop is steadily increasing amongst European planters. There is a ready sale for the locally-manufactured product in both Uganda and Kenya.

52. Amongst other subsidiary crops *Maize* is growing in importance, and, with the extension of the railway system, the cultivation of this crop for export is beginning to assume a more important position in the economic development of the Protectorate. Exports of *Simsim* amounted to 115 tons compared with 718 tons in 1927. *Groundnuts* were exported to the extent of 150 tons. Local consumption of both these products was greater than usual on account of the famine conditions which prevailed for a part of the year in the Eastern and Northern Provinces.

53. Exports of *Chillies*, owing to a sudden rise in prices at the end of the previous year, showed an increase of 3,129 cwt. compared with 1927, when they amounted to 1,308 cwt., valued at £4,359. 4,437 cwt., valued at £25,848, were exported in 1928.

PLOUGHING.

54. Amongst the native cultivators in the Eastern Province the use of ploughs extended and contributed to the increase in the area under cotton in that part of the Protectorate.

55. The following comparative table shows the principal commodities exported during the last five years :—

Articles.	Unit.	Year ended 31st December, 1924.		Year ended 31st December, 1925.		Year ended 31st December, 1926.		Year ended 31st December, 1927.		Year ended 31st December, 1928.	
		Quantity	£	Quantity	£	Quantity	£	Quantity	£	Quantity	£
Cotton, Raw	... Centals	514,418	3,486,565	784,152	4,685,992	723,438	3,051,791	526,911	1,690,838	553,944	2,475,327
Cotton Seed	... Tons	21,093	106,280	21,928	122,790	35,360	194,887	29,500	170,303	45,506	323,110
Coffee, Raw	... Cwt.	41,093	167,696	29,883	139,469	33,211	147,884	43,514	170,407	40,355	164,187
Rubber, Plantation	... Centals	6,083	18,911	8,058	68,704	13,561	135,619	14,463	82,077	11,312	54,978
Groundnuts	... Tons	89	1,446	41	820	380	6,026	2	40	150	2,636
Chillies	... Cwt.	21,357	35,499	2,257	2,935	1,245	1,715	1,308	4,359	4,437	25,848
Simsim Seed	... Tons	740	15,602	214	4,523	194	4,130	718	13,732	115	2,162
Sugar, Refined	... Cwt.	319	698	4,053	7,447	1,255	1,599	10,161	16,371	2,749	4,434
Hides, Dry and Dry Salted Cwt.		7,172	24,347	7,027	29,843	7,640	27,357	29,619	99,541	58,677	257,288
Skins, Sheep and Goats	... No.	274,915	14,175	55,350	4,014	88,750	5,173	78,411	4,091	163,042	8,039
Ivory	... Cwt.	269	22,909	307	28,535	202	18,289	499	34,574	329	21,759
Metalliferous Ores, Non-Ferrous.		—	—	—	—	—	—	117½	20,875	252	50,673

These figures represent shipments from Mombasa.

Note: 1 cental = 100 lb.

Forestry.

56. The activities of the Forestry Department include the conservation and exploitation of forests throughout the Protectorate, afforestation, and supervision of concessions. Regeneration and planting activities extended over an area of 144 acres. In many localities operations were severely handicapped by the drought, but on the whole progress was satisfactory. The total area now planted amounts to 1,340 acres.

57. Experiments with various "Eucalypts" indicate that the rate of growth of suitable species is far in excess of anticipation, particularly in swampy areas in whose reclamation they should play an important part. At Jinja, Teak (*Tectona grandis*) planted out in November, 1927, had by the end of 1928 attained in many cases a height of 10 feet, with an average of 5 feet over the whole planting, which was satisfactory considering the drought experienced.

58. The Forest Adviser, Mr. J. W. Nicholson, completed his "tour" of the Protectorate in November and his general report was completed by the end of the year.

59. The principal sources of the supply of timber are the Minziro forest, near the Tanganyika border, the savannah forests of Busoga, and, in a lesser degree, the Budongo forest in Bunyoro. Exploitation of the Kaiso section of the Minziro Forest, under the Public Works Department, was continued during the year and nurseries were started by the Forest Department in connection with re-afforestation.

60. At the end of the year, concessions covering 314.20 square miles were being exploited, the majority of which (approximately 302 square miles) are in Busoga, Eastern Province, where Mvule (*Chlorophora excelsa*) is the chief timber of commerce.

61. Other timbers of good quality being exploited throughout the Protectorate are *Juniperus procera* (Cedar) in the Mt. Elgon area; *Podocarpus gracilior* (Mt. Elgon area and Minziro Forest); *Entandrophragma utilis* (a Mahogany sp.), and *Lovoa* sp. (mainly in Buganda and the Budongo Forest, Bunyoro), and *Khaya anthotheca* (another Mahogany sp.) in Budongo, Bunyoro.

62. The total output of timber from Government forests during the year was 398,365 cubic feet, and revenue has risen from £3,011 in 1924 to £13,135 in 1928.

Fisheries.

63. A fairly large fishing industry, almost entirely in the hands of natives, exists on all the large lakes of the Protectorate and on parts of the Nile for the supply of fresh fish to all classes of the community living near, and of dried fish for the native population in all districts. The Lake Victoria fisheries were the subject of a survey conducted

by Mr. Michael Graham of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and his report, published early in the year, is full of valuable information, especially regarding the "Engege" (*Tilapia* spp.), the staple food-fish of the Lake, and of important suggestions for its conservation and for future research and control. A further survey was carried out by Mr. E. B. Worthington on Lakes Albert and Kioga, and the information obtained and the suggestions given by him for the lines which development of these under-exploited fisheries should follow, are likely to be of the utmost value. Mr. Worthington has emphasized the commercial importance of the famous "Nile Perch" (*Lates niloticus*), but he is unable to recommend the introduction of such a voracious fish of prey into Lake Victoria, where at present it does not exist, until further research has shown whether its probable increase there at the expense of the "Engege" would be an advantage or not.

64. Investigations into the practicability of stocking the streams of the Ruwenzori range and Mt. Elgon with trout were carried on during the year, and there seems to be every likelihood of the project being as successful in Uganda as it has proved in Kenya.

Mining.

65. Increasing interest was shown in the prospecting and mining possibilities of the Protectorate, and it is estimated that during 1928 not less than 40 European geologists, prospectors, and miners were engaged and a sum of £50,000 expended in these operations. Interest is no longer confined to the Western Province but has extended to Buganda and the Eastern Provinces. The principal search has been for extensions of the tin-bearing areas already discovered in the Ankole District. On the Ruwenzori Range underground development was prosecuted continuously with a view to proving the extent of the copper-bearing lodes discovered in 1927. The Karamoja District was under investigation by a strong prospecting party, but no discoveries of economic value have been reported.

66. Some 265 tons of tin ore of a value of £44,166 have been exported during the year, all being the produce of the Mwirasandu mine. The ore has proved of good quality, assaying at an average of over 75 per cent. of metallic tin.

67. At the end of the year ten exclusive prospecting licences were in force covering an area of some 16,126 square miles.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

General.

68. Kenya and Uganda being one administrative unit for purposes of Customs, complete freedom of trade between the territories

exists. For this reason, and on account of the very intimate trade connect on between the countries, a detailed examination of the external trade of each territory separately is a matter of very considerable difficulty, particularly in view of the fact that virtually the whole of the imports and exports of both Dependencies pass through Mombasa, the principal port of Kenya. In consequence the combined trade figures represent generally the landed value at Mombasa in the case of imports and the "f.o.b. Mombasa" value in the case of exports, these being the declared values for purposes of Customs.

69. As, however, the division of Customs Revenue is based on the consumption of dutiable articles in each territory, every endeavour has been made to calculate the actual imports into Uganda with the greatest possible accuracy, exports being divided according to the declaration of the shippers. Succeeding paragraphs under the headings of "Imports" and "Exports" deal briefly with the information so obtained.

70. The free interchange of local produce between Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika Territory has been allowed since 1st January, 1923. By agreement between the three Governments this principle was extended to imported goods as from 1st August, 1927, and the Customs Revenue involved has been credited to the consuming territory. The value of thus further lowering of the barriers to inter-territorial trade has already been amply demonstrated, as, apart from obviating the necessity for double payment of duty, merchants are now enabled freely to transfer their stocks to meet seasonal requirements in any of the three territories. In this manner the consequences of over-stocking in a particular district (an ever-present contingency in any country dependent on agriculture) are rendered considerably less serious and the whole basis of trading in imported goods in Eastern Africa is improved accordingly.

71. Despite relatively unfavourable local markets, due in large measure to a shortage of foodstuffs following a period of drought, trading operations throughout the year were usually stable, and the ill effects of over-trading, which in the past have too frequently been an unwelcome feature of trade in East Africa, were markedly less evident during the period under review. At the close of the year stocks were normal and the general trading situation, particularly in regard to native requirements, was sound. A tendency towards a less indiscriminate grant of credit facilities and a greater fluidity in the local markets consequent upon the extension of the unrestricted trading area to Tanganyika Territory were among the important contributory factors to this improved state of affairs.

72. In view of the fact that a cotton crop estimated to exceed 180,000 bales has already been gathered and is in process of being marketed, and of the largely increased shipments of cotton seed

which will probably follow railway extensions in the Protectorate, trade prospects in Uganda during 1929 are promising.

Imports.

73. The total value of trade imports into Uganda for consumption in the territory was £1,988,104 as compared with £1,819,961 in 1927. For reasons given above these figures are quoted in terms of "landed value, Mombasa," the cost of handling and freight through Kenya to Uganda not being included.

Cotton Tissues and Manufactures continue to constitute the main item of import trade. All classes show increased quantities imported, but decreased values are recorded under bleached and dyed piece goods. Notwithstanding these decreases the total value of cotton textiles imported during 1928 has increased by £155,785 as compared with the previous year. Details are as follows :—

	1927 Value.	1928 Value.
	£	£
Cotton Piece Goods	457,351	580,888
Cotton Blankets	48,706	73,795
Yarns and Manufactures	14,457	21,616
	£520,514	£676,299

Tobacco.—The value of imports of cigarettes, cigars, and tobacco increased from £79,018 in 1927 to £90,967 during the year under review.

74. A general expansion in imports in 1928 followed an improvement in the yield from the cotton crop. Other important items showing increases are jute bagging and sacking, motor vehicles, bicycles, tyres and tubes, petrol, kerosene oil, aluminium hollow-ware, rice, sugar, and spirits. Decreases are recorded under industrial machinery and corrugated iron sheeting. Comparative figures are as follows :—

	1927.	1928.
	Tons. Value.	Tons. Value.
	£	£
Industrial Machinery and parts	459 45,640	400 41,859
Galvanised sheets, corrugated	1,627 31,360	1,480 24,210

75. During the earlier portion of the year famine conditions necessitated considerable importations of native foodstuffs from Kenya, the principal item being maize meal, of which 195,141 cwt., valued at £81,583, were imported, as compared with 24,983 cwt., valued at £9,938 in 1927. The total value of Kenya produce imported into Uganda in 1928 was £236,255, as against £130,118 during 1927.

Exports.

76. The total value of the domestic exports of Uganda during 1928 in terms of "f.o.b. value Mombasa" was £3,395,270, as compared with £2,310,300 in 1927, representing an increase of £1,084,970 or 46.96 per cent.

Cotton.—Cotton maintains its predominant position in the list of commodities exported from Uganda. The value of shipments under this heading increased from 526,911 centals, valued at £1,690,838, in 1927 to 553,944 centals, valued at £2,475,328, in 1928, an increase of 27,033 centals in weight and £784,490 in value. The declared f.o.b. value per cental of 100 lb. was £4 9s. 4d. as against £3 4s. 2d. in 1927 and £4 4s. 5d. in 1926.

Cotton Seed.—45,507 tons of cotton seed valued at £323,109 were exported in 1928, as compared with 29,500 tons valued at £170,303 shipped during 1927, this considerable increase being largely due to additional transport facilities provided by railway extensions in Uganda.

Tin Ore.—As a result of mining operations in Uganda, exports of tin ore increased from 117½ tons valued at £20,875 in 1927 to 252 tons valued at £50,673 during the year under review.

Increased exports of chillies and hides and skins are recorded, but there was a contraction in the exports of rubber, ivory, sugar, and coffee. Comparative figures are as follows :—

EXPORTS.

Article.	Unit of Quantity.	1927.		1928.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			£		£
Chillies	Cwt.	1,237	4,359	4,437	25,848
Hides	"	29,619	99,541	58,364	257,287
Skins	No.	78,419	4,105	163,244	8,051
Rubber	Centals of 100 lb.	14,463	82,076	11,311	54,978
Ivory	Cwt.	499	34,574	330	21,758
Sugar	"	10,598	16,796	2,874	4,565
Coffee	"	43,515	170,412	40,348	164,188

77. For more detailed particulars in regard to imports and exports, sources of supply, countries of destination, etc., reference is invited to the Annual Trade Report of Kenya and Uganda.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.**Railways.**

78. The railway and steamer services in the Protectorate are under the control and management of the Kenya and Uganda Railways and Harbours Administration.

Eastern Province.—The Kenya and Uganda Railways main line crosses the border between Kenya Colony and the Protectorate a few miles to the east of Tororo and proceeds via Tororo in a westerly direction to Mbulamuti, where it joins the Busoga Railway. The Busoga Railway, commencing at Jinja, links up Lake Victoria with the navigable waters of the East Nile. Jinja, on Lake Victoria, and Namasagali, the headquarters of the East Nile Steamer Service, have direct rail connection with Mombasa.

A branch line from Tororo to Soroti, approximately 100 miles long, is at present under construction. The first section—Tororo-Mbale (35 miles) has been opened for traffic, and the section Mbale-Soroti is expected to be completed by October, 1929.

Buganda Province.—A short line (6 miles) connects Kampala with its nearest port on Lake Victoria, Port Bell.

Extensions.—A railway from Jinja to Kampala (distance approximately 57 miles) has been sanctioned, and construction will be commenced early in 1929. It is expected that this line will be completed in 1931.

All the above lines have metre-gauge.

Lake Services.

79. *Lake Victoria.*—There is a weekly service connecting Entebbe, Port Bell (Kampala), and Jinja with Kisumu, and a fortnightly service to other ports on this Lake. A local service connects the Sesse Islands and Buvuma Island with the ports on the mainland.

80. *East Nile, and Lakes Kioga and Kwania.*—A regular service is run, from Namasagali to all ports on Lakes Kioga and Kwania, and the East Nile up to Atura.

81. *Lake Albert.*—A steamer service, with headquarters at Butiaba, affords regular communication with the north-eastern confines of the Belgian Congo at Mahagi and Kasenyi, and with the Nile ports as far north as the Sudan frontier post at Nimule.

82. *Development of Waterways.*—Survey and clearing works have been carried out by the Railway Administration on the Kagera River, which discharges into Lake Victoria at a point approximately midway between the northern and southern limits of the western shore of the Lake. The main difficulty is the bar at the mouth of the river, and machinery is being introduced to deal with this. The river is navigable for a tug to a point 97 miles from the mouth. The purpose of this development is to tap the tinfields of Ankole, but the possibilities of other traffic are promising.

Motor Transport and Roads.

83. Information as to the maintenance and improvement of existing roads is given in Section VII (Public Works). Apart from

the roads maintained by the Public Works Department a considerable mileage of good motor roads is kept up by the native administration.

84. The Kenya and Uganda Railways and Harbours Administration has a road motor service linking Masindi port on the east Nile with Butiaba on Lake Albert, a distance of 75 miles. The Public Works Department maintains services on a few other roads, but in the main the road transport services are now in private hands, and with the encouragement provided by good all-weather roads and prosperous conditions, are making very rapid progress.

Aviation.

85. The preparation as a landing ground of a suitable level site at Entebbe, close to Lake Victoria and so providing in its ground organization for the anchorage of seaplanes, was nearly completed during the year, and an aerodrome at Tororo, a new link in the aviation chain between Kenya and Uganda, will be brought into existence in 1929. Besides Entebbe, landing facilities for seaplanes exist at Port Bell and Butiaba, which have been selected as seaplane, wireless, and meteorological stations on the Alexandria to Mwanza air route.

86. A new company, Cobham-Blackburn Air Lines Limited, was formed to continue the service between Egypt and East Africa begun by the North Sea Aerial and General Transport Limited, and further experimental flights were undertaken by Sir Alan Cobham when he visited Uganda in his all-metal flying boat in the course of his flight round Africa. His flight was entirely successful, and negotiations have been conducted with a view to the establishment of an air mail service to connect with that of the Imperial Airways Limited between London and Karachi, and capable of extension to South Africa.

87. The Government was fortunate in being able to avail itself during May and June of the advice of an Air Ministry expert on the possibilities of air development in the Protectorate, and on the formation of ground organization in connection therewith.

88. Some private aviators visited Uganda during the year, and in November Lieutenant Bentley of the South African Air Force, who was flying from England to the Cape in a Moth aeroplane, was able to give the Government valuable advice in connection with the preparation of the Entebbe landing ground. The machines of the annual Royal Air Force Cape to Cairo flight were not able to make a stop in the Protectorate this year, but arrangements were made for a landing at Entebbe and exercises with the local forces to be included in the programme for 1929.

89. Air traffic and the importation of goods by air are regulated in the Protectorate by the Aerial Navigation Ordinance, 1927, and by the Air Navigation (Colonies and Protectorates) Order in Council, 1922.

Posts and Telegraphs.

90. The financial results of the year's working of the Post and Telegraph Department, which is amalgamated with that of Kenya under the control of a Postmaster-General at Nairobi, indicate a steady rate of progress which is satisfactory. The revenue accruing to the Protectorate rose from £44,387 in 1927 to £47,824, an increase of nearly 8 per cent. Recurrent expenditure amounted to £42,814 as compared with £41,649 in 1927, an increase of £1,165, whilst capital expenditure totalled £5,554 as compared with £5,219 in 1927—a reduction of £665—leaving a slight increase of £500 in the gross total of expenditure over the previous year.

91. The various postal, telegraph, and telephone services were satisfactorily maintained during the year and show a steady development in keeping with the progress of the Protectorate. The extension of the railway within the Protectorate enabled additional mail facilities to be provided and there is now a thrice weekly mail service between the Protectorate and Kenya.

92. The total mileage of telegraph and telephone pole route at the end of the year was 1,616 miles and the wire mileage 3,611. Good progress was made during the year on the programme, which has been embarked upon, of the reconstruction of old wooden pole routes and their replacement with light iron poles, and in the transfer, where opportunity offers, of road routes to alignment along the railway extensions which are taking place. In this connection 130 miles of pole route were dealt with, and at the same time the general system was extended by some 180 miles of wire. With the exception of outlying districts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces all administrative centres are connected by telegraph.

93. The increase in the popularity of the Savings Bank which was referred to in last year's Report was maintained during the year. The balance standing to the credit of depositors at the end of the year totalled £25,205, as compared with £18,674 for the previous year. Deposits increased by 64 per cent. in number and 56 per cent. in value, whilst withdrawals increased by 32 per cent. in number and 46 per cent. in value. The total number of depositors rose from 1,224 to 1,490. Of the foregoing 991 are Africans representing an increase of 129.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

94. The Criminal Statistics for the year under review show a slight increase (5 per cent.) in crime, mainly in municipal, road, and other miscellaneous minor offences. There was a decrease of 15 per

cent. in civil litigation. The following tables give particulars of the Criminal and Civil jurisdiction for the last five years :—

CRIMINAL.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Discharged for want of evidence.</i>	<i>Convicted.</i>	<i>Acquitted.</i>	<i>Found Insane.</i>	<i>Total number of persons.</i>	<i>Total number of cases.</i>
1924 ...	194	3,917	658	3	4,772	3,781
1925 ...	445	5,747	484	4	6,680	5,410
1926 ...	374	5,932	388	3	6,697	5,141
1927 ...	418	6,630	695	3	7,746	6,284
1928 ...	479	7,155	515	3	8,152	6,626

CIVIL.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Amounts of Shs. 300 and under.</i>	<i>Amounts above Shs. 300 to Shs. 1,000.</i>	<i>Amounts above Shs. 1,000 to Shs. 3,000.</i>	<i>Amounts above Shs. 3,000.</i>	<i>Value not stated.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1924 ...	589	322	146	51	5	1,113
1925 ...	717	511	262	68	7	1,565
1926 ...	1,271	836	342	105	17	2,571
1927 ...	1,674	1,038	497	104	28	3,341
1928 ...	1,718	749	276	70	14	2,827

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Appeals.</i>		<i>Confirmation of death sentence.</i>	<i>Civil (and Reference).</i>	<i>Revision Criminal (and Reference).</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Civil.</i>	<i>Criminal.</i>				
1924 ...	17	44	15	3	40	119
1925 ...	9	42	9	1	104	165
1926 ...	17	36	3	4	47	107
1927 ...	17	46	9	1	50	123
1928 ...	18	48	2	3	71	142

95. There were 744 native courts in the Protectorate during 1928, the supervision and inspection of which were carried out by administrative officers as in previous years. The returns from these courts show a total of 76,730 cases for the year, the judgments in 690 of which were reversed or varied on revision or appeal.

96. The authorised establishment of the Protectorate Police Force for the year was reduced to 24 officers, 5 European non-commissioned officers, 6 Asiatic non-commissioned officers, and 1,197 native non-commissioned officers and men ; of this number 3 officers, 2 European non-commissioned officers, 2 Asiatic non-commissioned officers, and 72 native ranks were apportioned to the Criminal Investigation Branch. This Force dealt in 1928 with 6,434 criminal cases in connection with which 5,126 persons were convicted.

97. The Native Government provides its own personnel for police and prison purposes. These have no legal powers, except such as may be delegated to them by the chiefs to whom they are subordinate.

98. The Protectorate Government gaols held 2,083 prisoners at the close of the year.

Substantial progress was made in the building of the new Central Gaol which, when completed, will hold over 1,000 prisoners. Convict labour is being utilised in connection therewith.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

99. The total expenditure on public works for the year under review amounted to £341,306 as compared with £382,981 in 1927. This expenditure was made up as follows :—

	£
Public Works Department, Personal Emoluments	52,856
Public Works Department, Special Temporary Staff.	7,965
Public Works Department, Other Charges ...	18,082
Public Works Department, Annually Recurrent	60,659
Public Works Department, Extraordinary ...	137,771
Government Timber Supply	6,787
Government Timber Supply, Development of Minziro Forest.	1,413
Public Works Department, Jinja Water Supply (Maintenance).	754
Public Works Department, Transport Section ...	37,022
Imperial Loan Ordinance, 1915	2,354
Development Loan	479
Other Departmental Votes and Private Accounts	15,164
Total ...	£341,306

100. Of this amount, £101,904 were spent on new buildings, and the most important items were the commencement of the new High Court at Kampala, the completion of the first instalment of the Central Gaol at Luzira, and considerable improvements and extensions to Government House. As in 1927, it was found possible to undertake a certain amount of building work for the various Native Administrations.

101. The expenditure on the maintenance and improvement of existing roads was £36,687, and the mileage of roads maintained at a cost of £32,726 was 1,429 miles. The balance of £3,961 was spent on improving existing roads by widening them and eliminating dangerous corners, to make them safer for the ever-increasing motor traffic. The expenditure on new road work or on roads taken over by the Public Works Department from the Native Administrations amounted to £10,442, including a sum of £2,586 spent on permanent bridges and culverts on second and third class roads.

102. The Jinja water supply was completed at a final cost of £39,503, and by the end of the year a small revenue of £411 had been

earned. The scheme for supplying Kampala with water from Lake Victoria received approval. Materials were ordered and arrangements made to engage the necessary staff. Construction will be started in 1929.

103. The negotiations for granting a concession of the Minziro forest and the adjoining forests in Tanganyika Territory to the public did not materialise. The Government sawmills at Katera continued to operate successfully throughout the year and supplied all demands for softwoods by Government Departments in Uganda. The revenue earned was £5,783.

104. With the decision to carry the railway to Kampala from Jinja, the scheme for the construction of a road bridge across the Nile at Jinja has been perfected. Its construction is being undertaken by the Railway Construction Branch of the Kenya and Uganda Railway, and it is hoped that it will be opened for traffic by the end of 1930.

105. The following are the average numbers of skilled labour employed by the Public Works Department during the year :—

	<i>Africans.</i>	<i>Asiatics.</i>
Carpenters	120	216
Masons	349	51
Painters	28	2
Blacksmiths	13	5
Mechanics, Fitters, &c.	12	17
Brickmakers, Sawyers, &c.	279	Nil.
	801	291

The average number of unskilled labour employed each month, all of whom were Africans, was 8,318.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

106. The year has seen a further increase in the volume of work undertaken by the Medical Department. The number of cases treated at Government hospitals and dispensaries was 548,163, an addition of 67,647 cases to the number treated in 1927, 480,516. There were 2,275,725 re-attendances, an increase of 237,277 over last year. Of the total cases treated, 21,452 were admitted to wards, a slight decrease compared with last year. The average daily number in wards was 1,175, which was, however, slightly higher than last year. The number of surgical operations performed was 2,707 compared with 3,383 in 1927. This decrease is explained by the fact that this year only operations performed under general anaesthesia have been recorded together with major operations performed under local anaesthesia.

107. The increase in general work undertaken is reflected in a corresponding increase in the sub-dispensary work. Of the totals recorded above, 286,746 new cases, including 3,159 in-patients, were treated at sub-dispensaries whilst the total attendances at them was 1,287,343. The corresponding figures for the year 1927 were respectively 253,134, 2,347, and 1,166,310. The total number of sub-dispensaries operating during the year was 56 compared with 53 last year.

108. Deaths in hospitals during the year amounted to 1,220 compared with 1,111 in 1927. The principal causes of deaths for these two years were as follows :—

1928. Pneumonia 216, dysentery 116, accidents 107, malaria 61, syphilis 56, plague 44, tuberculosis 42, and relapsing fever 22.

1927. Pneumonia 165, accidents 118, dysentery 116, plague 64, syphilis 57, relapsing fever 50, malaria 46, and tuberculosis 36.

109. *Vital Statistics*.—The returns of Vital Statistics reveal a satisfactory state of affairs. In most instances the returns are not so favourable as those shown for the year 1927, when the best returns ever recorded from the Protectorate were made. The returns for 1928 compare favourably however with those recorded for 1926.

110. *Research Institute*.—An Institute for research into Human Trypanosomiasis has now been established at Entebbe under the directorship of Dr. H. L. Duke, O.B.E., who combines this duty with the duties of Deputy Director of Laboratory Service.

111. *Medical Education*.—Three Senior Native Medical Assistants who had completed four years training at Makerere College and Mulago Hospital, and who had served a further period of one year in clinical practice at Mulago Hospital, became available for employment in the Medical Service. Two were posted to charge of dispensaries at Kaliro and Bubulu in the Eastern Province, hitherto in charge of Asiatic staff, and one remained at Mulago hospital to undertake duty in connection with the tuition of junior medical attendants. Excellent reports have been received concerning all of them. They are the first Senior Native Assistants to complete their training and to be employed by this department. Four others have completed their examinations, but have not completed their year of clinical practice at Mulago hospital.

The training of lower grade native attendants at Mulago hospital has been continued and has been organised on a better basis.

112. *British Empire Leprosy Relief Association*.—A branch Council of this Association has now been formed for Uganda and District Committees have also been appointed in all districts in which leprosy is especially prevalent. The efforts of Dr. Wiggins together with the appointment of these Committees have led to a wide-spread

interest being aroused in the subject. Dr. Wiggins has made a prolonged experiment with a scheme of treatment of leprosy at out-centres entailing very severe strain upon himself and his limited staff.

IX.—EDUCATION.

113. Considerable developments have taken place during the year under review, and all round progress has been well maintained.

The Government Technical School at Kampala was opened early in the year and over sixty pupils drawn from all parts of the country were enrolled.

The Government Normal School for the training of Elementary Vernacular School Teachers was opened in January. This school provides a parallel course to those of the mission normal schools except that instruction is given in the Swahili language. Many of the students are from the Mohammedan Schools and it is hoped that at the end of the course these teachers will do much to improve the standard in the schools of this community.

A model school has been built at Kasawo about 40 miles N.W. of Kampala near Nakifuma, and will open in January, 1929.

114. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited Makerere College and King's College, Budo, and he also sent a message to all the school children in the Protectorate.

115. Examination for temporary teaching certificates was held in September, and also an elementary vernacular leaving examination for children in the elementary schools; these examinations have enabled much organisation to be undertaken in the schools, and have stopped to a very large extent the teaching of English and other subjects by unqualified men.

The standard of the schools is showing marked improvement and the new trained teachers from the normal schools are doing exceedingly well. With a steady supply of these men coming forward future prospects are very bright.

116. It is satisfactory to note that there is greater competition for entrance to Makerere College and the standard of entrants is steadily rising.

117. Comparative table giving particulars of expenditure on education during the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Total Government expenditure on Education.</i>	<i>Total Revenue.</i>	<i>Percentage of total revenue expended on Education.</i>	<i>Amount spent by Government on Education per head of population.</i>
	£	£		Cts.
1924 ...	17,521	1,239,789	1.4	10
1925 ...	24,595	1,479,284	1.7	16
1926 ...	42,664	1,389,641	3.07	28
1927 ...	48,001	1,292,306	3.7	32
1928 ...	51,385	1,412,586	3.6	37

The following table is a summary of the schools together with the teachers and the pupils attending them. The figures given must be regarded as approximate :—

Intermediate Schools—Boarding Schools.						Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Total.	
No. of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	19	17	36	
No. of European Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	23	22	45	
No. of Native Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	85	32	117	
No. of Scholars (Boys)...	...	...	...	...	...	826	462	1,288	
No. of Scholars (Girls)...	...	...	...	...	...	649	151	800	
Normal Schools.									
No. of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10	
No. of European Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	12	
No. of Native Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	10	7	17	
No. of Students (Male)	...	...	...	...	...	111	138	249	
No. of Students (Female)	...	...	...	...	...	41	68	109	
Elementary Vernacular Schools.						Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Non-Mission.	Total.
No. of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	96	65	9	170
No. of European Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	6	52	1	59
No. of Native Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	294	203	24	521
No. of Adults	...	...	...	...	...	119	156	5	280
No. of Boys	...	...	...	...	...	5,320	4,938	436	10,694
No. of Girls	...	...	...	...	...	1,123	1,035	—	2,158
Sub-Grade Schools.						Protestant.	Roman Catholic.	Total.	
No. of Schools	...	...	...	...	...	3,340	2,182	5,522	
No. of European Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	1	45	46	
No. of Native Teachers	...	...	...	...	...	3,681	2,333	6,014	
No. of Adults	...	...	...	...	...	20,607	6,361	26,968	
No. of Boys	...	...	...	...	...	82,893	37,212	120,105	
No. of Girls	...	...	...	...	...	47,120	29,542	76,662	

X.—LAND AND SURVEY.

118. The reconnaissance and beaconing of the Northern Meridional Chain, which effects an extension of the main trigonometrical survey northwards from the Teso District to the Sudan boundary, has been successfully completed. A base line has been selected and prepared near Kitgum. Observations and measurement will proceed in 1929. A further 900 square miles of topographical mapping on the 1/50,000 scale was completed in the Eastern Province.

119. The survey of estates guaranteed to natives of Buganda by the Uganda Agreement, 1900, was continued. A total area of some

589 square miles was covered by the survey during the year. It is estimated that of the total land area of Buganda—16,828 square miles—some 10,600 square miles or 63 per cent. of the whole has now been dealt with. Similar obligations, but on a much smaller scale, are imposed by the Toro Agreement, 1900, and the Ankole Agreement, 1901. In Toro the survey of the whole of the guaranteed area of 376 square miles has been completed and in Ankole, where the area calling for demarcation is some 334 square miles, the survey has been commenced. Considerable activity obtained in Buganda in respect of inter-native transfers of small holdings which are being carved out of larger estates.

120. Township plots continue to be the subject matter of the great majority of transactions in Crown lands. The policy of concentration of non-native traders into permanent centres, which has already become effective in much of the Eastern Province, has produced noticeably beneficial results. Orderly settlements of neat if modest buildings of permanent materials are replacing scattered wattle-and-daub hovels. Sanitary, police, and administrative control is facilitated and the capital investment in permanent improvements is being made use of in an increasing measure in the normal operations of trade finance. Certain of the larger centres are developing into creditable towns which should in due course become homogeneous units of municipal government. A total of some 197 new buildings leases of various descriptions has been issued during the year. A limited interest is still being shown by European applicants in coffee plantation land in Toro. In all some 5,878 acres of Crown land in 33 parcels have been leased for agricultural and similar purposes.

121. Compulsory registration of title under the Registration of Titles Ordinance in 1924 is now firmly established, and less than 30 final titles to land now remain outside the registration of the Office of Titles.

Geological Survey.

122. During the year further investigation of the geology of the Karamoja District, and the north-eastern area, was carried out; and advice was also given to the big prospecting party working there. The Sango Bay area, near the Tanganyika boundary, was visited several times, and the high level gravels of Lake Victoria studied, and the important suggestion was made that the apparent absence of alluvial tin in the gravels of the Kagera river which crosses the tinstone-bearing zone, may be due to the heavy floods during ancient pluvial periods, which are correlated with the glacial periods of Europe, having swept away the deposits. If at the same time there had been a change in the valley of the Kagera, for which there is some evidence, alluvial tin is not now necessarily to be looked for near the present Kagera. The location of the ancient alluvial deposits is an important subject for future investigation.

123. The volcanic rocks of the Bufumbira area have now been geologically surveyed and further work has been done on the volcanic rocks of the Elgon district. The areas of Karroo rock in the Eastern Province were further examined, and sites for exploratory bores to test for coal were located. For the Kenya Government two investigations were undertaken : one, a rapid survey of part of the Kisumu District of Kavirondo, an area where Karagwe-Ankolean rocks were intruded by granites, and which was thought likely to yield tin ; and the other an examination of the meizoseismal area of the Subukia Valley earthquake of 6th January, 1928.

124. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company's senior geologist investigated the Lake Albert oilfield, and his findings are believed to be in agreement with those of the Geological Department.

125. The usual mineral determination and assay work and advice to prospectors and other Government officials has been continued, and this has helped the Department to keep in touch with prospecting in Uganda. Another new discovery of tin 40 miles W.S.W. of Mbarara is important as it extends the tin area 24 miles N.W. of the previously known nearest occurrence. In the producing mine (Mwirasando in Ankole, which yielded in 1928 nearly 265 tons of tin concentrates) further exploratory work with adits is being done by the Company concerned, and an officer of the Department has been all over the workings and has made a careful study of these tin deposits which are in many ways peculiar. The forthcoming memoir on this subject should, therefore, be of particular interest to mining engineers and geologists. At Kilembi in Toro, where promising shows of copper had been found, underground exploration with adits is also being actively carried out.

126. One of the most interesting minerals received at headquarters is a tantalate and niobate of bismuth, from a place about 30 miles west of Kampala, which appears to be a new mineral ; but prospecting has not yet gone sufficiently far in the pegmatite in which the mineral is found to judge whether it is in payable quantity, or whether other valuable minerals are associated with it, as would appear likely.

127. Drilling has been done by the Geological Department in Entebbe to explore further the Karroo basin under the station, and drilling for water was started in the Soroti district of the Eastern Province. There have been requests for water borings from many parts of the Protectorate.

128. The work at the Seismological Observatory has been carried on, and most of the world's large earthquakes, and many smaller, nearer tremors have been recorded. The value of the records has been very much enhanced by the reception of wireless time signals. Quarterly reports have been rendered to the Seismological Committee of the British Association.

XI.—LABOUR.

General.

129. The activities of the Labour Department were principally directed during the year to the inspection and improvement of conditions under which labour is employed by the general public, and more particularly to those conditions obtaining on estates and in fuel-cutting camps where numbers of "contract" labour are employed, and where it has been realised for some time past that considerable room for improvement existed.

130. As a result of these inspections it became evident that some uniform type of house should be adopted, and simple instructions in connection with the hygiene of camps were drafted and made available for reference by employers. Improvement in conditions of housing, medical attention, and rationing of labourers undoubtedly lead to better work and results, and it is hoped that employers of labour will realise that it is economically sound to pay greater attention to these matters.

131. A total of 1,027 labourers was recruited for Government Departments as against 5,305 in the previous year. It had been decided that the Jinja-Kampala Railway extension should be built with local Baganda labour. After an intensive propaganda campaign adequate number of labourers volunteered, and 927 were engaged on this work by the end of December. They are employed on a three months' contract at Shs. 15s. per mensem, *plus* rations, including 2 lb. of fresh meat per week, and a blanket and gunny-bag. They are housed in hygienically-constructed corrugated-iron huts.

132. As the notification of disease among labour employed by the general public is not compulsory, statistics are unobtainable. The losses in money from malaria alone must be very large, and it is surprising that managers of business concerns keeping accounts of profits and losses can afford to omit from them a record of sickness amongst their labour.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

133. During the year 16 Ordinances were passed. The most important of these were the Waterworks Ordinance, enacted to provide for and regulate the supply of water to the public; the Sleeping Sickness Ordinance, which was enacted to control the movements and ensure, if necessary, the compulsory medical examination and treatment of the population in sleeping sickness areas; the Civil Procedure Ordinance, which replaces the Indian Code of Civil Procedure, 1882, and which follows generally the Kenya Civil Procedure

Ordinance, 1924; the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, which was enacted to remedy certain defects in the existing law, and which now provides for the reciprocal recognition of arms licences issued in neighbouring territories; and the Registration of Business Names (Amendment) Ordinance, which requires suitable details of the age of each partner or individual merchant to be furnished. The law relating to the registration of business names is now in full conformity with that of Kenya.

Climate and Meteorology.

134. The climate of the Protectorate when compared with that of some tropical countries, is not unpleasant. The conditions vary in different parts but there are no "highlands" occupied by European settlers as in Kenya. European children as a rule thrive in infancy, but some risk is attached to bringing them out when they are over two or three years old, as they are liable to attacks of malaria and the resultant anaemia. The health of adults depends mainly on their mode of life and with care, constitutional health should not be impaired. Outdoor manual labour is dangerous for Europeans, and on plantations a manager's or owner's duties are for the most part supervisory. With the exceptions mentioned below, the temperature is moderate and varies but slightly throughout the year.

135. The mean maximum temperature for most districts averages 80° Fahrenheit, and the mean minimum 60° Fahrenheit. On the Ruwenzori range there is extreme cold with perpetual snow, and it is also cold on the higher slopes of Mount Elgon. In the Nile valley near Lake Albert, on the other hand, the mean maximum temperature is 90° Fahrenheit and the mean minimum 74° Fahrenheit. The favourite localities for European plantations are the Toro district of the Western Province, the Buganda Province (particularly the Mengo and Mubende districts), and the Bunyoro district of the Northern Province. There are a few estates in Busoga (Eastern Province), but this area is not a popular one.

136. Statistics taken at Entebbe give the following results:—

Average rainfall for the last 33 years—59.68 inches.

Average temperature for the last 28 years—maximum, 78.7° : minimum, 62.8°.

Mean daily sunshine for 1928—7 hours 6 minutes.

The rainfall at Entebbe for the year, which was above the average, amounted to 61.48 inches distributed over 171 days. The highest rainfall was recorded at Kalangala (Sesse Islands) where 83.55 inches were registered, and the lowest at Butiaba, where 26.86 inches were registered.

137. Two main rainy seasons are anticipated annually. The first or "long" rains, usually begin in March and may continue

throughout June ; the second, or " short " rains, begin in September and extend through October and occasionally November ; generally speaking, both seasons are experienced throughout the Protectorate. Much of the rain falls during the night or early morning. Violent thunderstorms and heavy showers occur frequently in the daytime, but these are only of local incidence.

Veterinary.

138. During the early part of the year rinderpest spread rapidly through the greater part of Lango District and a considerable area in Teso District. The prolonged drought and famine conditions rendered the control of the disease particularly difficult and it was only by the most strenuous efforts that a widespread epizootic throughout the Protectorate was prevented. The position soon began to improve, but in July rinderpest appeared in Bunyoro, having been carried across the Nile by infected game, and in the same month it also appeared in Buganda, following the movement of a calf by canoe across Lake Kioga. The infection of buffalo in both Bunyoro and Bugerere made it necessary to immunise the whole cattle population of those areas. The disease appeared again towards the end of the year in Buruli, in the west owing to game movements from Bunyoro, and in the east to extensions from Bugerere. Buffalo were reported dying in Singo county of Buganda in November, but no outbreaks occurred in cattle. This extension appears due to game movement from Bunyoro. It would seem to be a rule that when a herd of buffalo becomes infected with rinderpest they scatter and the stragglers tend to join up with healthy buffalo herds, thus disseminating infection over a wide area.

139. Two outbreaks in Busoga in the south-east of the Protectorate were eradicated before widespread occurred and several outbreaks were successfully dealt with on the Kenya-Uganda border. At the end of the year the disease was confined to two small centres immediately adjacent to that border.

The total number of inoculations performed in the Protectorate was 166,168—a large total when considered in relation to staff available.

140. The fact that no cases of Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia were discovered in the number of cattle which have come under observation owing to drought concentrations and anti-rinderpest inoculation camps has enabled the conclusion to be made that, despite its chronicity, this disease has markedly diminished, if not entirely disappeared. This is highly satisfactory in view of the 382 active centres recorded during 1921-1923, and there are now strong indications that the disease has been eradicated from all but the most remote northern areas of the Protectorate where veterinary staff does not operate.

141. Trypanosomiasis did not occasion heavy loss, but outbreaks were recorded from time to time. No treatment was adopted except in four centres. The degree of chronicity that this disease can sometimes assume has become more apparent in the process of immunisation to rinderpest. One herd, with a clean history for two years, broke down to the original infection of *T. congolense* under the process of immunisation, and suffered a mortality of 50 per cent.

142. Investigations of tsetse fly belts were continued and the effect of a rinderpest epizootic on a belt was studied in view of the reports from other countries of the disappearance of the tsetse after such epizootics. Though some decrease in the fly appeared to have occurred in the area investigated it was still sufficiently numerous to refute the suggestion that rinderpest entirely eliminates *G. morsitans*. A "wet weather" survey of Buruli indicated an absence of tsetse.

The results obtained from the experiment of the "smoke" houses erected in Ankole appears very satisfactory.

143. The training of Native Veterinary Assistants has been continued under great difficulty, partly due to shortage of staff and partly to the absence of training facilities. It has not been practicable to obtain that degree of progress anticipated at the end of 1927.

144. Work on the industrial development of the Live Stock Industry has continued and progress has been made during the year in the development of the Koja Stock Farm. Grade European cattle have been introduced, in spite of the difficulty of tick-borne disease, and some interesting observations have been made during the process, which may have far reaching results.

145. A steady increase has occurred in the value of hides exported from the Protectorate, but the regrettable re-introduction of a flat-rate system of buying, irrespective of quality, tends markedly to counteract past propaganda and progress. The post for the demonstration of hide cleaning at Mbale has continued to prove a success and three additional posts were erected in neighbouring areas. In rinderpest quarantines demonstrations of hide cleaning were given and, in the Teso and Lango Districts, markets were introduced on the release of the quarantines.

146. The Research Division of the Veterinary Department has been handicapped during the year by the absence of a laboratory, which has prevented any work other than field observations being carried out. The question of erecting a new laboratory and the work which should be carried out in it is engaging the serious attention of the Government.

Game.

147. The Game Department was formed at the end of 1924 primarily with the object of controlling the huge herds of elephants, which find a home in many parts of the Protectorate, and of protecting native cultivation. The results have unquestionably been successful. It is estimated that there are in Uganda at least 20,000 elephants, which, on account of normal progress and expansion now accelerated considerably by rapidity of development of communications (railways and roads), have to be confined in a rapidly dwindling area. It is also reckoned that the Protectorate must be accumulating annually an adverse balance of a thousand elephants.

148. There is little game in the populated areas, though in outlying districts, in certain well-favoured localities, and in the Closed (infected) Sleeping Sickness Areas, there is plenty and of good variety. Included in the fauna of the Protectorate are such rare and interesting animals as the northern race of the white rhinoceros, the mountain gorilla, the situtunga, and the grotesque whale-headed stork.

149. There are three Game Reserves on the mainland :—(1) The Bunyoro and Gulu Game Reserve, nearly 2,000 square miles in extent, through which the Victoria Nile runs from east to west. It acts principally as an elephant sanctuary and contains a herd of approximately 7,000. (2) The Semliki Game Reserve of 108 square miles, affording protection to a variety of antelopes, buffaloes, and a few small herds of elephants ; and (3) the Lake George Game Reserve of 123 square miles, which is a seasonal refuge of herds of elephants and buffaloes and protects partially a race of waterbuck carrying exceptionally fine trophies. All Closed (infected) Sleeping Sickness Areas automatically fulfil the role of Game Reserves. The Island of Damba in Lake Victoria is also a game reserve, affording protection to many hundreds of the interesting marsh antelope or situtunga.

150. Under the Game Ordinance of 1926 wide powers are given to land holders and owners in defence of crops or other property.

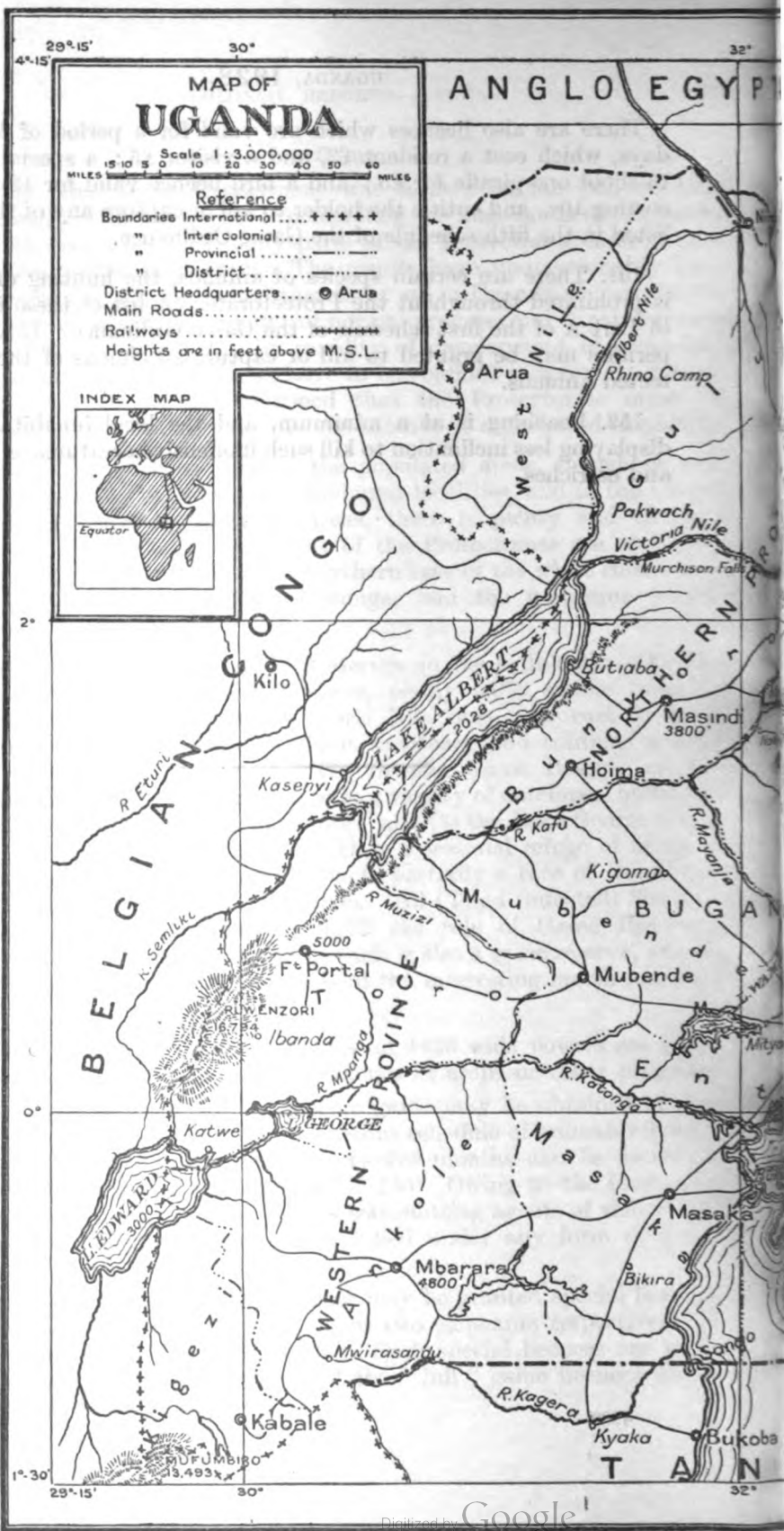
Licences to hunt, kill or capture game may be obtained at fees which are low considering the generous schedule of animals allowed. "Full" game licences valid for twelve months can be issued to residents for £5 and to visitors for £50. Owing to the increasing numbers and the harm they do as transmitting agents of rinderpest, *unlimited* buffaloes may now be killed under any form of game licence.

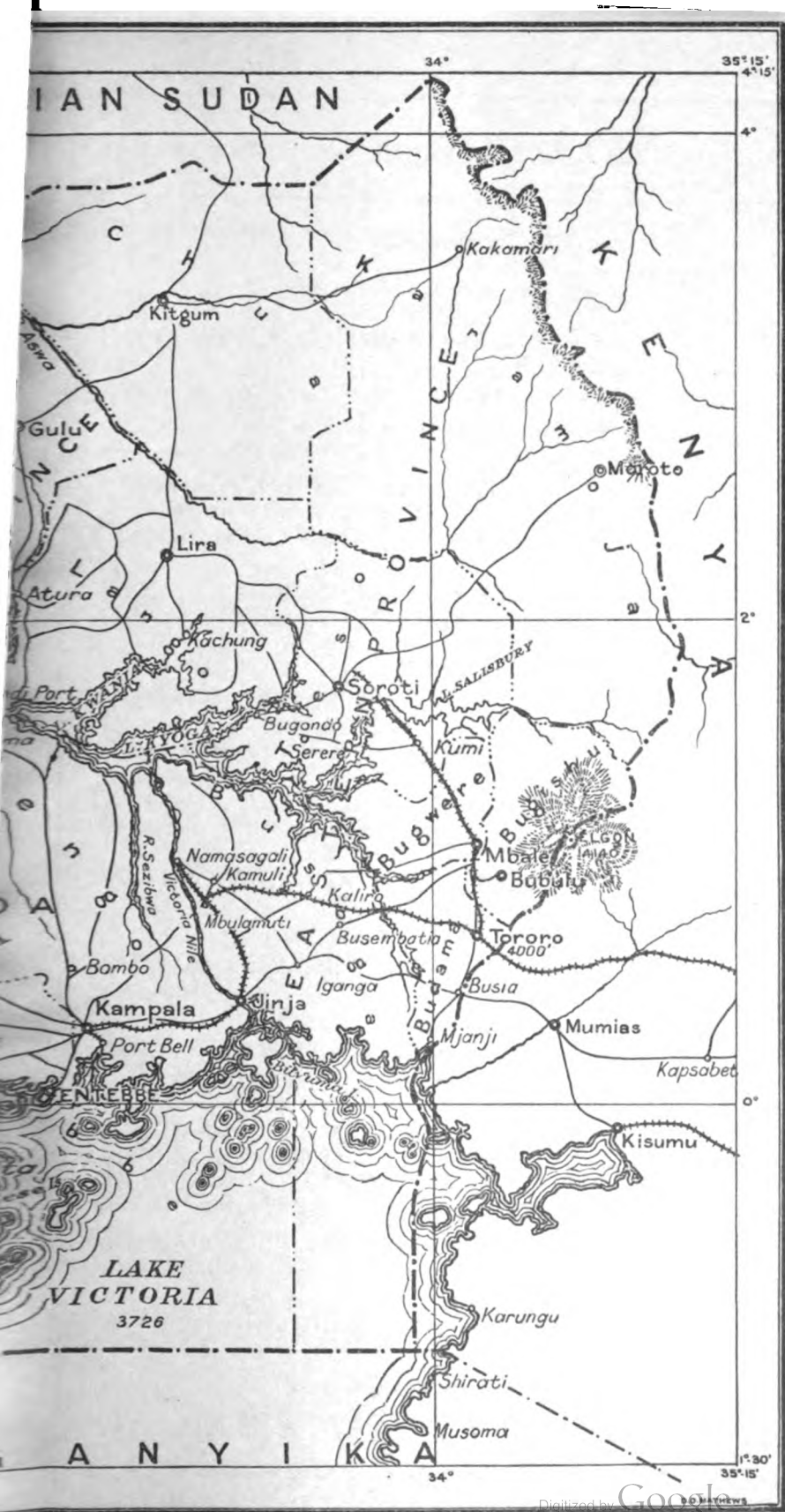
Holders of "full" game licences may be granted special licences to kill or capture a first, second, or two elephants respectively on the payment of £10, £20, or £30. Such special licences are valid only for the period of validity of the "full" game licences under which they are issued.

There are also licences which are valid for a period of fourteen days, which cost a resident £2, and a visitor £5 ; a special licence to shoot one giraffe for £5 ; and a bird licence valid for 12 months costing 10s., and entitle the holder to kill or capture any of the birds listed in the fifth schedule of the Game Ordinance.

151. There are certain species of animals, the hunting of which is prohibited throughout the Protectorate. A list of these is given in Part A of the first schedule of the Game Ordinance. Governor's permits may be granted to kill or capture specimens of these protected animals.

152. Poaching is at a minimum, and the local inhabitants are displaying less inclination to kill such inoffensive creatures as giraffes and ostriches.





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REPORT FOR 1928.

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TONGAN ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY...	2
I.—GENERAL	3
II.—FINANCE	4
III.—PRODUCTION	4
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS	5
V.—COMMUNICATIONS	6
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	7
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS	7
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH	8
IX.—EDUCATION	9
X.—LANDS AND SURVEY	10
XI.—LABOUR	11
XII.—METEOROLOGICAL	11

History and Geography.

The Kingdom of Tonga consists of three main groups of islands called respectively Tongatabu, Haapai, and Vavau, together with the outlying islands of Niuafoou, Niuatobutabu, and Tafahi. The main groups are situated between the 18th and 22nd degrees of South latitude and the 173rd and 176th degrees of West longitude and extend over an area of approximately 250 square miles.

The island of Niuatobutabu was discovered by the Dutch navigators, Schouten and Lemaire, in 1616. They did not visit the main groups. In 1643 Tongatabu was discovered by Tasman and from that year until 1767, when Wallis anchored at Niuatobutabu, there was no contact with the outside world. Captain Cook visited Tongatabu and the Haapai group in 1773 and again in 1777, and named the islands the Friendly Islands. Niuafoou was discovered by Captain Edwards in H.M.S. *Pandora* in the year 1791.

The early history of the Tongans is enshrouded in myth, but it is clearly established that there at one time existed two kings, a spiritual and a temporal. The power of the Tui Tonga, the spiritual king,

seems to have spread over a vast area of Polynesia, whence he received tribute. His office was hereditary. In course of time he divested himself of power and, while retaining his ceremonial position he delegated executive functions to a temporal sovereign. The office of the sacred king disappeared some sixty years ago and its powers passed to the temporal king. The ancient monuments of Tonga bear testimony to the might of the sacred kings. The royal tombs in Tonga consist of quadrilateral mounds, faced by huge blocks of stone, some of which rise in terraces to a height of 20 feet. The stones are coral, of immense weight, and can only have been placed in position by the concerted labour of a large body of men. During the first half of the nineteenth century the islands were the scene of civil wars. These were finally checked during the reign of George Tubou I, who had by conquest gathered all power into his own hands. He was finally proclaimed king in 1854. King George was an absolute ruler, but acting under missionary influence, he granted a Constitution to his people based on the English model. This Constitution was from time to time amended, yet in essentials the present Constitution differs but little from the original Constitution.

The first king died in 1893, after a memorable reign of nearly fifty years, and was succeeded by his great grandson. The present monarch, Queen Salote, succeeded to the throne on the death of her father, King George Tubou II, in 1918.

A Protectorate was proclaimed over Tonga in 1900, and a British Agent appointed.

English coin was made the currency of Tonga by a Statute passed by the Tongan Parliament in 1906. Tongan Government notes were issued in 1919 and at present notes to the value of £21,000 are in circulation. The issue is secured by a coin and investment reserve. English weights and measures are in use.

I.—GENERAL.

Falcon Island remained visible and its volcano in eruption during the year. This island, which lies about forty-five miles to the north of Tongatabu, was first observed as a breaking reef in the year 1865, and in 1885 it appeared as an island. Its area was continually changing and in 1894 it was 3 miles long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles broad, and 50 feet high. It disappeared in the year 1898, and although it showed again in 1900, it disappeared altogether fourteen years ago. It was reported on the 1st October, 1927, to be erupting, and when observed a week later it was 1,730 yards long, north and south, 1,430 yards broad, east and west, and 305 feet high. The volcano played for one minute every twenty minutes and the eruption rose to a height of over 4,000 feet. The Premier and a party landed on the island in June, 1928, and planted the Tongan flag.

His Majesty's Ship *Veronica* visited Vavau and Haapai on surveying duty.

II.—FINANCE.

The Tongan financial year ends on the 30th June. The revenue and expenditure totals for each of the last five years are as follows :—

Year.						Revenue.	Expenditure.
						£	£
1923-24	...	...	...	...	...	81,023	61,796
1924-25	...	...	...	...	...	74,335	63,539
1925-26	...	...	...	...	...	91,696	68,759
1926-27	...	...	...	...	...	72,562	83,513
1927-28	...	...	...	...	...	86,626	83,208

There is no public debt and at the close of the last financial year the surplus funds of the country amounted to £121,202. This was raised by further investment to £130,702 at the end of 1928. These funds are invested in War Bonds, New Zealand, and Straits Settlements Stock, and in fixed deposit with the bank of New Zealand. There is no loan issue.

A Government Savings Bank was established in 1926. During 1928 deposits to the amount of £12,341 were received and withdrawals amounted to the sum of £9,713. There is no other bank in Tonga.

The principal sources of revenue are the Native Tax, import and export dues, trading licences, Court fees, rents of Government lands, and interest on investments.

All male Tongans when they attain the age of sixteen years pay a poll tax of 36s. per annum.

The general tariff on imported articles is 12½ per cent. *ad valorem*; there are no preference duties. There is an export tax on copra of £1 per ton. The excess of revenue over expenditure of £3,418 in the financial year was mainly in customs duties, aided by an increase of 5s. per ton in the export duty on copra. There were substantial increases in Registration fees and Poll Tax.

III.—PRODUCTION.

The following table shows the quantity and value of copra exports for the five years ending 31st December last :—

Year.						Tons.	Value.
							£
1924	...	...	...	...	...	14,533	297,487
1925	...	...	...	...	...	13,758	280,386
1926	...	...	...	...	...	13,992	255,156
1927	...	...	...	...	...	11,252	225,344
1928	...	...	...	...	...	15,671	282,083

The decreased production in 1927 was due to the effect of the severe drought which prevailed during the latter half of 1925 and the first quarter of 1926.

Every Tongan landowner is compelled by law to have four acres of his tax allotment of $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres properly planted with coconuts. There is also a provision in the law to enforce the clearing of plantations.

A copra Act was passed in 1926, having for its object the improvement in copra manufacture, and it has been made a statutory offence for a trader to have bad or damaged copra in his possession.

Copra production is almost entirely carried on by the Tongans. There are only a few European planters in the islands. The Tongan Government do not encourage European settlement and, apart from this fact, the difficulty of obtaining labour would form an effective bar to development of the land by Europeans.

There is no forestry or fishing production, and there are no minerals.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The following table shows the value of the import and export trade during the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>					<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
					£	£
1924	...	...	...	...	232,600	306,658
1925	...	...	...	...	258,322	290,115
1926	...	...	...	...	227,882	263,198
1927	...	...	...	...	157,783	235,391
1928	...	...	...	...	211,907	287,668

The export trade is confined to copra. It is exported on optional bills of lading and is mostly sold on the Continent. Imports consist chiefly of drapery, hardware, flour, tinned meats, sugar, kerosene, benzine, timber, and gunny bags. The imports, apart from kerosene, benzine and timber, are of United Kingdom, Australian, and New Zealand origin. The following figures show the percentage of imports from foreign countries during the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>								<i>Per Cent.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Of the rest of the imports the United Kingdom supplied 16 per cent., New Zealand 38 per cent., Australia 27 per cent., and other British possessions 7 per cent. The increase in foreign imports was mainly in Japanese goods. The volume of the import trade from the United Kingdom has not varied in any appreciable degree during the last five years. It consists mostly of drapery, hardware, drugs, and cement. Importations of the two former lines represent approximately 20 per cent. of total importations. There is a ready

market for Manchester prints, suitable for native clothing, and for other cotton wearing apparel moderately costed. There is a limited market for the British light motor-car. Benzine is retailed at 3s. 2d. per gallon and the advantages of the light car in the matter of running expenses are obvious. There are 188 motor vehicles registered in Tonga.

The leading commercial houses, viz., Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, and Messrs. Morris Hedstrom, Limited, import through their London offices.

Tonga is overstocked with stores. Every village has its trading station, and in many cases two or three. The overhead charges of trading are high with a consequent reaction on the cost of commodities. There is a keen demand among traders for copra. The costs of the upkeep of the numerous sub-stations of the traders and the high handling charges reflect themselves on the price paid.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

There is monthly communication with Auckland by a vessel of the Union Steamship Company. This vessel, after calling at Fiji *en route*, visits the three principal islands in Tonga, and returns to Auckland via Samoa and Fiji. Tonga is 1,100 miles distant from Auckland, yet the journey, on account of the route followed, occupies a fortnight. The lack of direct communication with New Zealand, which existed before the war, is severely felt. The direct service every two months from the United Kingdom, via ports, of the Clan Line was carried out during the year. Steamers or schooners, with oil and timber cargoes from the United States of America, called at irregular intervals. During the year 31 vessels from overseas of a total tonnage of 78,918 tons entered and cleared. Of this tonnage 49,875 tons was British, 14,578 Norwegian, 9,277 Swedish, and 4,346 American. Interinsular communication is carried out by the Tongan Government despatch vessel and sailing vessels.

There is a Tongan Government wireless station at Nukualofa and a sub-station at Vavau which communicates only with the main station. The Nukualofa radio communicates with Samoa and Fiji and thence by the Pacific Cable Board to all parts of the world. During the year the Nukualofa station forwarded 1,613 messages and received 1,218. The sub-station forwarded 1,212 messages and received 702. It is proposed to instal three more sub-stations during 1929. There is a telephone system, with 109 subscribers. It serves the township of Nukualofa.

There are 35 miles of metalled roads in Tongatabu suitable for motor traffic. The by-roads are earth roads and are not suitable for heavy traffic during the wet season. In Vavau the main roads have been metalled or tarred for a considerable distance. There are no railways in the islands.

Postal communication with the outside world is despatched monthly by the Union Company's steamer and by copra vessels. Interinsular mails are carried by the Government despatch vessel and by cutters. The Collectors of Customs act as Postmasters at Nukualofa, Haapai, and Vavau. British postal orders are issued at these offices, and money orders, for transmission through Australia, may also be obtained.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

There are two jurisdictions in Tonga. Under the provisions of the Treaty of 1900, civil jurisdiction over British subjects and foreigners is exercised by the British Agent, who holds a commission as a Deputy Commissioner of His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific. In criminal matters British subjects and foreigners were until November, 1928, also subject to the jurisdiction of the High Commissioner's Court for offences other than offences against Tongan laws relating to Customs, Taxes, Public Health, and Police not cognisable as such under the provisions of the Pacific Order in Council. By an amendment in November, 1928, of the Treaty of 1900 the Tongan Courts were granted extended jurisdiction over British subjects and foreigners. A European Magistrate has been appointed in pursuance of this extended jurisdiction. The Agent is a Judicial Commissioner in Divorce. The judicial work of the Agent is light. During the year the Court sat on fifteen days.

The Courts of the Tongan Government have full jurisdiction over Tongans and a limited criminal jurisdiction over British subjects and foreigners. The Tongan judicial system is based on the British model, and trial by jury, in cases which come before the Supreme Court, is provided for in the Constitution. Serious crime among the Tongans is of infrequent occurrence and during the last five years the average number of persons convicted in the Supreme Court has been twenty. The Police Department is in charge of a Tongan Minister who is also the Public Prosecutor. Concurrent with the appointment of Chief Magistrate was that of Chief European Inspector of Police, who, besides reorganizing that force has relieved the Minister of Police from much of his prosecuting duties, especially where "foreigners" are involved. The Tongan Police, when called upon to do so, assist His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner's Court in making arrests and enforcing judgments. The Minister of Police is also in charge of prisons. There is one main prison in Nukualofa, at which all long-sentence prisoners are confined. There is also a gaol in Haapai and in Vavau. Prisoners are employed on road-making and other public works and in making copra and planting on Government plantations.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The work of this Department consisted mainly of the maintenance and extension of roads and maintenance of buildings and repairs. No work of special interest was undertaken.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Progress has continued in matters of public health. The Tongan Government agreed to co-operate generally in carrying out the Resolutions adopted at the International Pacific Health Conference held in Melbourne in December, 1926. Thirteen Tongan lepers were in 1927 transferred to the Leper Asylum of the Fiji Government at Makogai. A Central Medical School was established in Fiji for the training of native medical practitioners and four students from Tonga have been selected and entered. The campaign for the erection of cement latrines throughout the islands is progressing steadily, and the work has been completed in most of the group. There are no rivers or streams in Tonga, and the rain-water supply is conserved in tanks. It is proposed to improve and add to the existing cement tanks in the villages. This campaign is an essential corollary to the latrine campaign.

Apart from the annual influenza epidemic, of a mild nature, and some typhoid and German measles, the incidence of sickness throughout the year was light.

There are three hospitals in Tonga. The main hospital at Nukualofa is well equipped. It consists of European and Tongan wards, in separate buildings, and a dispensary. The other hospitals are in Haapai and Vavau. They are suitable for local requirements. The Medical Department consists of four European medical officers, an ankylostomiasis officer, a European nurse, and a Tongan staff. The Tongans receive free medical attention. The Government pay a retaining fee to a dentist, and the Tongans receive free treatment in cases of extractions and temporary stoppings. They are also treated freely for pyorrhoea, the incidence of which is heavy. Provision was made for an expenditure of £9,441 on medical and health services. This sum is equivalent to 11.60 per cent. of the total estimated expenditure of the financial year.

The following figures show the vital statistics for the five years ending the 31st December, last :—

<i>Year.</i>					<i>Number of Births.</i>	<i>Birth-rate.</i>
1924					858	35.90
1925					866	35.60
1926					910	35.80
1927					976	37.65
1928					960	36.09
					<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Death-rate.</i>
1924					443	18.40
1925					592	24.35
1926					377	14.84
1927					297	11.07
1928					476	17.80

The infant mortality rate for the year was 64.90 per 1,000 births. Comparative figures of this rate are as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>							<i>Rate.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	135.20
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	295.60
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	102.19
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	37.90
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	64.58

The estimated Tongan population at the end of the year was 27,097, an increase of 500 during the year.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is compulsory for all Tongans between the ages of six and fourteen years. The schools, in the Education Act, are divided into three types—primary, middle, and high. In the primary schools elementary education on a vernacular basis is provided. There are 73 Government and 39 denominational primary schools. The approximate average daily attendance throughout the year was 4,263. These schools are subject to inspection. The buildings of the Government primary schools are provided by the taxpayers of the village. Education is free. Instruction is given in the three R's, singing, and needlework. Middle schools are provided for in the Act for the purpose of providing an elementary education in English. It has not yet been found possible to establish any of these schools. The High schools provide a general secondary education. The principal High schools are the Government College, Tubou College, and the Roman Catholic School in Tongatabu. These schools are residential.

The staff at the Government College consists of three Europeans and five Tongans. The ordinary academic instruction is given and pupils are taught the correct methods of growing native crops at the College plantation. The number of pupils at the College averages 170. The Director of Education, who is also Principal of the College, conducts an annual course of instruction for head teachers in the primary schools during the long vacation. Evening classes in English for non-collegiates are also conducted throughout the year.

Tubou College is a Wesleyan Mission School which, in addition to its academic work, prepares teachers for the church primary schools. There are 61 pupils resident at the College. A European clergyman is in charge.

Games play an important part in the life of the colleges and the standard is high. The Tongan is a keen rugby footballer and a particularly good tennis player. The college brass bands are an interesting feature of Tongan school life. The pupils respond readily to training. Secondary education for girls, apart from missionary effort, is undeveloped.

A scholarship scheme was inaugurated during 1927 under which Tongan students from the colleges proceed abroad for secondary and university education. The value of the scholarships will not exceed £150 and £200 at secondary schools and the University respectively. It is intended to limit the number of scholars, at any one time, to five. One scholar was elected, after competitive examination, during 1927 and he has entered a public school in Australia, where at the end of 1928 he was joined by a further exhibitioner. Another was included amongst the four medical students admitted to the Central Medical School at Fiji.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The Tongan land system is, in many respects, unique. All land is the property of the Crown, but large estates have been divided out among the nobles. Every Tongan, when he attains the age of sixteen and thereby becomes a taxpayer, is entitled to a tax allotment of $8\frac{1}{4}$ acres in the bush and a town site. He obtains the grant on application to the Minister of Lands. He pays an annual rental of 8s. for his tax allotment and no rent for his town site. The Minister grants the allotment out of the estate of the noble on which the applicant resides, and if land is not available a grant of Government land is made. Provision is made in the law for ejectment for non-payment of rent or for failing to comply with the planting laws. The interest of Tongans in land, whether they are the holders of hereditary estates or of tax allotments, is a life interest and alienation is expressly forbidden. Leasing is subject to Government control. Devolution is specially provided for.

It is a curious fact that many Tongans do not take advantage of their statutory right to land. At the beginning of 1927 there were 5,545 allotments held and 703 taxpayers had not applied for allotment. This latter class live in the towns or on their father's cultivated allotment to which they hope in time to succeed. No Tongan can hold two tax allotments and this fact, together with the neglect of taxpayers to apply for an allotment, retards economic development. The law provides that a Tongan may, instead of applying for a tax allotment, with its definite area, apply for an ordinary lease. This is a new phase of the law and it is not possible as yet to state how it will in fact operate. An allotment holder may also be granted a lease and a condition precedent to grant is a well-cultivated allotment. Though, in law, the area of the statutory allotment is limited to $8\frac{1}{4}$ acres, instances are numerous in which this area is exceeded. The reasons for this departure from the theory of the system may be historical—the area held representing an old feudal grant.

It is beyond the limits of this report to sketch, except in the barest outline, this interesting system. It is incapable of precise legal definition. It is simple in its operation though its examination obscures its simplicity. It is an example of a system grafted upon the polity of a native people, a creature of law rather than of custom.

The survey work performed by the Government surveyors during the year consisted in defining hereditary estates and in demarcating tax and town allotments. Lease surveys were also executed.

XI.—LABOUR.

The number of labourers employed in Tonga is negligible. There are a few Solomon Islanders, Fijians, and Indians working on plantations or in the stores. The wages of these labourers averages £5 a month with food. The Tongans labour at irregular intervals. They receive approximately 8s. a day and they are difficult to obtain. Tongan girls are employed as house servants at a wage of £2 10s. to £3 a month. A good cook is unobtainable in Tonga and it is necessary to introduce them from Fiji.

XII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

The climate of the Tongan Group from May to November is good for the tropics. The thermometer rarely registers higher than 80 degrees and the humidity, during these months is, as a rule, relatively low. During the wet season, from December to April, the temperature rarely rises above 90 degrees, but the humidity is high. The wet season is trying for Europeans. There is, however, no malaria. The following figures set out the meteorological summary for the year. As regards humidity, the maxima and minima shown are as observed at 9 a.m. The highest humidity recorded was 97 per cent. on the 13th November. The temperatures shown are the true extremes as the instruments used are self-recording.

Month.	Bar.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Rel. Hum.	Max.	Min.	R'fall.	Wind.
January ...	29.801	80.5	73.2	69.4	83.6	71.7	3.27	SE
February ...	29.908	80.1	74.7	76.6	82.8	72.6	7.09	ESE
March ...	29.884	81.8	77.1	79.9	84.6	75.3	8.43	SE
April ...	29.989	78.2	72.1	74.0	81.2	70.2	3.74	ESE
May ...	29.968	77.2	73.4	83.0	81.1	69.8	4.47	ESE
June ...	29.982	72.9	67.0	70.4	78.0	63.5	2.23	SSE
July ...	29.985	70.9	66.1	75.6	75.4	62.1	8.26	SE
August ...	29.062	71.2	67.2	80.0	75.4	65.7	10.31	SE
September ...	30.042	73.9	68.7	75.7	77.4	66.2	1.16	SE
October ...	29.975	75.9	68.9	70.0	79.7	66.5	0.17	SE
November ...	29.828	75.7	69.4	73.1	79.2	67.4	5.30	SE
December ...	29.882	80.2	76.4	84.0	83.1	72.7	4.20	E
Means ...	29.951	76.5	71.2	76.0	80.1	68.6	58.63	SE

W. E. RUSSELL,

*His Britannic Majesty's Acting
Agent and Consul, Tonga.*

NUKUALOFA, TONGA,

26th March, 1929.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report.

[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY	2
CURRENCY	5
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	6
I.—GENERAL	6
II.—FINANCIAL	6
III.—PRODUCTION	8
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS	12
V.—COMMUNICATIONS	13
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	16
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS	20
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH	21
IX.—EDUCATION	22
X.—LANDS AND SURVEY	25
XI.—LABOUR	27
XII.—MISCELLANEOUS—	
LEGISLATION	28
VISITS TO THE COLONY	29
XIII.—GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS	29

MAP.

Geography and History.

The Colony of British Guiana, which, it is interesting to note, is the only British possession on the South American Continent, lies between the first and ninth degrees of North latitude and fifty-seventh and sixty-first degrees of West longitude, and has a seaboard of roughly 270 miles, extending from near the mouth of the Orinoco river on the west to the Corentyne river on the east. The Colony is bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean, on the south and south-west by Brazil, on the east by the Dutch colony of Surinam, and on the west by Venezuela, and is divided into the three counties of Essequibo, Demerara, and Berbice. It has an area of approximately 90,000 square miles, of which only 198 square miles along the coast and up the rivers are cultivated.

The climate is a naturally healthy one for the tropics. On the coastal region there are two wet and two dry seasons in the year. The long wet season usually commences about the middle of April and lasts until the middle of August. This is followed by the long

dry season, which extends to the middle of November. From the middle of November to the end of January there is a short wet season, while a short dry season follows from the beginning of February to the middle of April. In the forest region of the interior the usual contrast between the wet and dry seasons is less marked than on the coast. In the savannah region in the far interior the rainfall is less than that registered in either of the other two. The mean temperature in the shade ranges in the coastal regions from 79° F. to 82° F., the mean maximum registering from 83° F. to 87° F., and the mean minimum from 74.5° F. to 76.5° F. Fresh sea-breezes blow steadily, almost without intermission in the day time, during the greater part of the year. During the months of January, February, and March, they continue both day and night, and make life pleasant for the European. The general direction of the wind is north-east, east-north-east, or east. Occasionally, however, during the wet months of the year, a land-breeze is experienced from the south-east, south, or south-west, and with this wind the heaviest falls of rain occur. The wind varies from "gentle" to "fresh" and gales are exceedingly rare. During 1928 the mean shade temperature as recorded at the Botanic Gardens, Georgetown, was 80.8° F., or 0.1° F. lower than that of the previous year, and 2.7° F. above that at the Penal Settlement, Mazaruni river. The absolute maximum was 90.0° F. and the absolute minimum 70° F. The total rainfall for the year was 96.48 inches. The mean rainfall in 1928 for the coastlands was 96.19 inches, as compared with 96.43 inches at the Penal Settlement, Mazaruni, and 109.05 inches at stations situated more than 15 miles from the coast.

The principal languages spoken in the Colony are English and different Indian languages.

The Colony was first partially settled between 1616 and 1621 by the Dutch West India Company, who erected a fort and depot at Fort Kyk-over-al in the present county of Essequibo. In 1624 a settlement was founded on the Berbice river by Van Peere, a Flushing merchant, under licence from the company. The first English attempt at settlement was made by Captain Leigh on the O'apock river (now French Guiana) in 1604. The effort, though followed up by Robert Harcourt in 1613 and 1627, failed to establish a permanent settlement. Lord Willoughby, famous in the early history of Barbados, also turned his attention to Guiana and founded a settlement in Surinam in 1663, which was captured by the Dutch in 1667 and ceded to them at the Peace of Breda in exchange for New York. The Dutch retained their hold on the three colonies with more or less firmness, now yielding to England, now to France or Portugal, till 1796, when during the war of the French Revolution they were captured by a British fleet sailing from Barbados. The territory was restored to the Dutch in 1802, but in the following year was retaken by Great Britain, and finally ceded to that Power in 1814.

The Constitution, as it existed up to 1891, may be summed up very briefly. It consisted of a Governor, a Court of Policy, and a Combined Court. The functions of an Executive and Legislative Council and House of Assembly were performed by the Governor and Court of Policy, except as regards taxation and finance, which were dealt with by the Combined Court, composed of the Governor and Members of the Court of Policy together with six Financial Representatives. The Court of Policy made all laws and ordinances, except the annual Tax and Customs Duties Ordinances, which were passed by the Combined Court. Towards the end of the 18th century, when British Guiana still belonged to the Dutch, there were two sets of taxes and two separate treasuries or chests—these taxes were : the Capitation Tax, which, together with the import, produce, and tonnage dues, went into the Dutch West India Company's (now the King's) chest ; and the Ongeld, an additional head tax, which belonged to the Colony chest. The abolition of slavery in 1834 rendered it necessary to alter the system of taxation to suit the new social conditions obtaining, and the King's taxes and the Colonial taxes were abolished and the ways and means necessary for carrying on the Government were raised by increasing the import duties. The two chests were merged into one—the revenue of the King's chest was surrendered to the Combined Court as a part of the ways and means in return for, and during the term of, a Civil List. In 1842, by an Order of Her Majesty in Council, it was declared that during the continuation of the Civil List the King's chest should continue to be abolished. The Civil List has continued to be renewed from time to time as necessary.

During 1891 an Act was passed, which came into force in 1892, effecting a considerable change in the Constitution. By this Act the administrative functions of the Court of Policy were transferred to an Executive Council, and the duties of the former became purely legislative. The Court of Policy then consisted of the Governor, seven official members and eight elected members, and together with six financial representatives formed the Combined Court.

A Parliamentary Commission was appointed in October, 1926, " to consider and report on the economic condition of the Colony, the causes which have hitherto retarded and the measures which could be taken to promote development, and any facts which they may consider to have a bearing on the above matters," and in their report* they recommended that it was essential, both on the grounds of immediate financial exigencies and that of future development, that the existing Constitution should be altered so as to confer power upon the Governor to carry into effect measures which he and the Secretary of State for the Colonies consider essential for the well-being of the Colony. On their recommendation a local commission was appointed to advise on the precise nature of the constitutional modification required to secure such control to the

* Cmd. 2841.

Government, and generally upon any other improvements such as those suggested by the Parliamentary Commission which might be effected in the Constitution. As a result of these reports an Act to make provision for the Government of the Colony of British Guiana was passed by Parliament in 1928, and by Proclamation issued by the Governor in Executive Council and published in the Official Gazette as provided by Article 3 of the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council, 1928, the Court of Policy and Combined Court then subsisting were determined on the 18th July, 1928, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor.

The Legislative Council as now constituted consists of the Governor, two ex-officio members, eight nominated official members, five nominated unofficial members and fourteen elected members. It shall be dissolved not later than two years after its first constitution, and thereafter at the expiration of five years if it has not been dissolved earlier. A general election must be held within two months of the date of dissolution.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor, two ex-officio members, four nominated official members, three nominated unofficial members, and two elected members, all of whom are members of the Legislative Council.

Currency.

Accounts are kept in dollars and cents. British sterling and United States gold coin are current and are legal tender.

On the 16th August, 1915, the Combined Court approved of the issue of Government currency notes of the face value of \$1 = 4s. 2d. and \$2 = 8s. 4d. The first notes were issued in January, 1917, and on the 31st December, 1928, there were notes in circulation to the face value of £104,166 13s. 4d.

During the year 1927 it was decided to change the design of the local currency notes. It is proposed to withdraw the notes at present in circulation and to issue early in 1929 in exchange therefor notes of the new design.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) and the Royal Bank of Canada have establishments at Georgetown, with branches at New Amsterdam, Berbice. Both of these banks carry on savings bank business.

The first Government Savings Banks were established at Georgetown and at New Amsterdam in the year 1836, and the first Post Office Savings Banks in December, 1889. In November, 1910, the Combined Court passed a resolution approving of the amalgamation of these banks, and authorising the transfer of the Government Savings Bank to the Post Office as from the 1st July, 1911. Savings Bank business is conducted at 52 post offices throughout the Colony.

On the 31st December, 1928, there were 36,354 depositors with a total of £374,744 7s. 8d. at credit in the Banks. The investments on the same date were £375,188 15s. 4d., from which an interest income of £16,868 1s. 3d. was received. The Bank has a reserve fund of £15,654 16s. 2d., and a Depreciation of Investments Fund of £17,234 7s. 3d.

Weights and Measures.

Imperial Weights and Measures are in use in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

1. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Cecil Rodwell, K.C.M.G., left the Colony on the 18th August to take up the appointment as Governor of Southern Rhodesia and his successor, Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisberg, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., R.E., arrived in the Colony and assumed the administration of the Government on the 7th November, 1928.

2. The Legislative Council of British Guiana, created by the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council, 1928, in substitution for the existing Legislature of the Court of Policy and Combined Court—the functions and privileges of which bodies ceased and determined on and by proclamation by the Governor in Executive Council dated and published in the Official Gazette on the 18th July, 1928—assembled in the Council Chamber, Guiana Public Buildings, for the first time on Wednesday, the 28th November, 1928.

3. The R.M.S. *Lady Nelson*, the first of the new line of Canadian Government Steamship Services inaugurated under the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement, sailed from Halifax on the 12th December and arrived in the Colony on the 22nd December, 1928, after calling at various West Indian Islands en route.

II.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

4. The ordinary revenue for the year 1928 amounted to £1,123,565, falling short of the estimate by £29,132 but exceeding the ordinary revenue for the preceding year by £86,075. Including certain extraordinary transactions giving rise to abnormal receipts both in 1927 and in 1928, the total revenue amounted to £1,185,811, exceeding the estimate by £33,114, and the revenue for the preceding year by £116,946.

Expenditure.

5. The total expenditure for the year amounted to £1,159,139, being £48,837 less than the estimate and £11,111 more than the

expenditure for the previous year. The estimates for 1928 included abnormal appropriations amounting to £28,364, the actual ordinary expenditure exclusive of these items being £1,130,775.

6. The revenue and expenditure for the last five years were as under :—

<i>Year.</i>					<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
					£	£
1924	...	...	...		1,056,238	1,065,457
1925	...	...	...		1,095,574	1,126,394
1926	...	...	...		1,054,127	1,173,491
1927	...	...	...		1,068,865	1,148,028
1928	...	...	...		1,185,811	1,159,139

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The Balance Sheet of the Colony at the 31st December, 1927, showed an accumulated deficit of £182,710. Including ordinary and extraordinary items the actual revenue during the year exceeded the actual expenditure by £26,672. The deficit was accordingly reduced to £156,038 at 31st December, 1928, the total assets and liabilities at that date being £2,339,739 and £2,495,777 respectively.

Public Debt.

8. The Public Debt at 31st December, 1927, amounted to £2,675,270. In January, 1928, a loan of £25,667 subscribed to in the preceding year was issued, while later in the year a reduction of £82,513, of which £69,813 was temporary (see below), was effected. The resulting loan indebtedness at the close of the year was therefore £2,618,424, against which liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of £496,785.

Advances made by the Crown Agents, pending the raising of a loan to finance the Georgetown Improvements, Coastal Drainage, Irrigation and Pure Drinking Water Schemes now in progress and the purchase of British Guiana (Railway) "Permanent Annuities" and 4 per cent. "Perpetual Stock" amounted to £1,639,175 at 31st December, 1928.

Particulars of Loan subscribed during 1928.

9. In 1927 the Government gave notice of its intention to exercise the right to redeem the 6 per cent. Debentures of Issues 5 to 9 and 11 under Ordinance 6 of 1916, and bondholders were subsequently given the option of converting their holdings under these issues into 5 per cent. Bonds. During the year under review applications for £69,813—5 per cent. Debentures at par were invited to meet the

cost of redemption of such Debentures of the above-mentioned issues as were not converted. The loan was fully subscribed and is issuable as from 1st January, 1929.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

10. The sugar crop of the Colony for 1928 was 114,634 tons as compared with 98,629 tons the average for the preceding nine years. The area reaped was 53,489 acres, the average yield of sugar being 2.14 tons per acre. The returns submitted by sugar plantations in the Colony show that in 1928, 57,625 acres were under sugar-cane.

11. The area devoted to the cultivation of rice was 55,560 acres of which 11,201 acres yielded both spring and autumn crops. The total yield of padi was 63,329 tons, equivalent to about 38,630 tons of cleaned rice. 18,083 tons of rice were exported in the year 1928, as compared with 11,496 tons in 1927. Large areas of the front lands of the Colony pre-eminently suited for the cultivation of rice are not so occupied.

12. Coconuts are planted on 28,000 acres of land. The exports of nuts were 322,000. In addition, 70,017 cwt. of copra and 26,244 gallons of coconut oil were exported. A great number of the nuts gathered, returned by the growers at 22,391,000 nuts, were used locally for the manufacture of copra, coconut oil, or directly as food. There is a very wide area of lighter soils on the front coastlands suitable for planting with coconuts.

13. The acreage returned as being under coffee was 5,894 acres. The export of coffee amounted to 8,212 cwt., as compared with 3,844 cwt. in 1927. The area is capable of considerable expansion, notably in the North-West and Pomeroun Districts.

14. The area returned as being planted with cocoa was 1,202 acres.

15. The area devoted to the cultivation of limes during the year was 660 acres. In the year under review, 8,124 gallons of concentrated lime juice and 440 gallons of essential oil of limes were exported.

16. The export of rubber was 143 cwt., as compared with 347 cwt. in 1927.

17. The acreage under provision crops was 15,528 acres.

18. The number of cattle in the Colony, including 70,614 on the hinterland savannahs, was 154,174 in 1928; horses were returned at 3,702, sheep at 25,937, goats at 15,772, swine at 24,248, donkeys at 7,789, mules at 1,846. There are also 392 buffaloes, mostly used in the timber grants.

19. The annual exports and values of the principal agricultural commodities during the last five years were :—

		1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Sugar ...	Tons ...	85,896	97,728	84,659	109,616	114,687
	£ ...	1,767,125	1,413,696	1,260,470	1,830,747	1,692,639
Molasses	Gals. ...	1,160,757	1,345,243	2,017,862	2,677,457	2,873,468
	£ ...	20,196	20,922	21,551	30,322	34,225
Rum ...	Pf. gals. ...	769,304	1,148,124	789,643	1,081,020	1,269,923
	£ ...	75,803	117,127	83,098	107,592	120,060
Rice ...	Tons ...	4,470	6,918	2,914	11,497	18,083
	£ ...	65,122	109,159	45,447	150,806	232,114
Copra ...	Lb. ...	1,848,895	1,935,110	3,820,468	2,605,818	7,841,944
	£ ...	14,895	20,023	39,595	24,276	73,442
Balata ...	Lb. ...	1,370,212	904,784	597,401	753,037	647,566
	£ ...	171,284	113,132	74,675	81,773	53,635

Forestry.

20. The Forest Ordinance, 1927 (No. 29 of 1927) established a Forest Trust for the Colony with a statutory allotment of funds. 1928 was the first complete year of working of the Forest Trust which functioned well.

21. Field work during the first half of 1928 comprised detailed examination of the forests of the North-West District, extending along the Waini river from Arawatta Creek for about 20 miles, and along the Barama river from Kokerit landing to Towakaima Falls. This valuation disclosed good stands of Mora above Kokerit gradually becoming more irregular nearer Towakaima Falls owing to the hilly ground approaching the river banks and splitting up the alluvial belt. The forests of the Waini are of poor quality, the country being of a swampy nature. In addition to this work a second class theodolite traverse was run due west from Tiger Creek, Essequibo river, to Cuyuni river. From a point 12 miles on this line another line was run due north to meet the Unabaruka Creek. During the latter half of the year an area of 110 square miles was valued using these lines and disclosing Greenheart forests.

22. Samples of charcoal manufactured from Soft Wallaba (*Eperua falcata*), Ituri Wallaba (*E. Jenmani*) and Yaruru (*Aspidosperma sp.*) were forwarded to the Imperial Institute for tests as to calorific values. The results of these tests show that all three charcoals could be used in large or small portable or stationary gas producers adapted to work with charcoal fuel. Soft Wallaba charcoal gave particularly good results whilst those yielded by the Yaruru and Ituri Wallaba were satisfactory.

23. The report on the sample of the Awarra palm fruit sent to the Imperial Institute during the year shows that the oil derived

from this fruit would be suitable for the same purposes as commercial palm oil derived from the West African oil palm, but as it has a lesser oil content its market value would be considerably affected thereby.

24. The Imperial Institute reports favourably on a sample of Crabwood seed and states that there should be a market for the oil extracted if it were possible to obtain the seeds in commercial quantities. The oil is unsuitable for edible purposes and could only be employed in the manufacture of soap.

25. Specimens of 11 of the commercial woods of the Colony were exhibited at the British Empire Timber Exhibition held at the Imperial Institute, London, between January and May. As a direct result of these exhibits several enquiries were received regarding sawn Greenheart and some substantial orders were placed with local firms.

26. A log of Red Cedar was sent to Eton College for trial in the construction of racing boats. The report on the wood was very satisfactory and there is a possibility of a small annual order being placed if logs of sufficient girth and similar quality can be obtained.

27. Experiments in seasoning of local woods were continued. Logs of Locust, Silverballi, Simarupa, Dukalli, Morabukea, Wamara, and White Cedar were obtained, sawn and stacked.

28. An order was obtained from the Government Railways, Jamaica, for 10,000 line sleepers and 490 crossing timbers. The order was placed with local firms. All sleepers and timbers, before shipment, were inspected and passed by the Forest Department. At the close of the year 7,265 line sleepers and 341 crossing timbers had been shipped. The Director of the Jamaica Railways reports these sleepers and timbers to be of good quality.

29. During the year, 152,367 cubic feet of timber for export was inspected, branded, and certified by the Forest Department. This is equivalent to 80 per cent. of the total quantity of hardwoods exported.

30. The number of licences for woodcutting purposes in existence at the end of the year was 324 over an area of 147,307 acres.

Mining.

31. The mineral production of British Guiana is at present confined to gold, diamonds, and bauxite. The records of gold production date back to 1884 and the aggregate amount produced from then to the end of 1928 was 2,674,344 ounces, valued at £9,755,544. The highest production in any one year was 138,528 ounces in 1893; but since the rise of the diamond industry and consequent almost entire diversion of the interest of the diggers to the alluvial diamond workings, the output of gold has dwindled until only 6,083 ounces were produced in 1928; of this 3,329 ounces were

won by dredging. With the exception of 69,430 ounces won by quartz-mining ventures, all of which are closed down, the entire production of gold has been obtained from alluvial deposits.

32. Diamonds were first discovered in 1890, but, though of good quality, failed to obtain a good market price until 1916, from which year production rose steadily to a peak production of 214,474 carats valued at £1,033,014 in 1923. World prices have gradually declined since then and the production for 1928 was 132,482 carats valued at £523,007. The aggregate production from 1890 to the end of that year was 1,400,744 carats valued at £5,938,187. The entire production has been obtained from alluvial workings mostly by individual workers, no pipes or fissure deposits having been found.

33. Valuable and extensive deposits of exceptionally high grade bauxite exist in easily accessible locations. Operations to develop part of these were commenced in 1914 by the Demerara Bauxite Company, an offshoot of the Aluminium Company of America. Plant and equipment to a value of about £1,000,000 have been erected and the aggregate output to the end of 1928 was 992,059 tons, the output during the year being 165,422 tons. This places British Guiana in the forefront of bauxite-producing countries. The British and Colonial Bauxite Company—an offshoot of the British Aluminium Company and connected British and Colonial interests—has recently taken up another large area, but active mining operations had not been commenced at the close of the year.

34. The annual exports of these minerals for the last five years were :—

—		1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Gold	Oz. ...	5,491	6,974	5,434	5,607	4,264
	£ ...	20,584	27,494	20,471	20,713	15,864
Diamonds	Carats	184,572	188,207	145,097	180,678	132,966
	£ ...	853,632	845,268	687,698	753,112	524,758
Bauxite	Tons	154,324	174,999	183,859	160,933	165,422
	£ ...	162,863	184,655	191,809	168,031	171,875

Fisheries.

35. There is room for considerable development in many directions, especially in deep-sea fishing.

A fair supply of sea-fish is generally kept in cold storage at an ice-manufacturing establishment in Georgetown. In early times, smoked or barbecued paku was obtained from the North-West District of the Colony in large quantities, but this is now rarely seen. Salt cod, herrings, and mackerel are imported in quantity, but no Colony fish are now cured. Fresh-water fish are obtainable in the markets, but the supply does not meet the demand.

36. The angler may enjoy good sport with tarpon (or cuffum) as well as with several other fish which are more grateful to the palate. The river-fishing in the interior is exceptionally good.

37. Fish-glue from the gilbaker was exported to the amount of 7,047 lb., value £266.

38. Crustaceans, such as crabs and prawns, add much to the food supply in the country district. Now that imported fish is much higher in price the demand for fresh fish has increased without a corresponding increase in the supply; hence prices are generally higher.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

39. The total value of the trade of British Guiana (including bullion and specie) during the year was as follows:—

	£
Imports	2,470,926
Exports	3,109,524
Total ...	<u>£5,580,450</u>

a decrease of £229,196 on the trade of the previous year.

The value of goods in transit to other countries transhipped direct in Colony ports was £161,585, as compared with £186,447 in 1927.

The value of imports (less re-exports and excluding bullion and specie) was £2,390,666, a decrease of not quite 2 per cent. on the imports of the previous year.

The total value of domestic produce shipped was £3,031,603, being a decrease of 7.1 per cent. on the exports of 1927. The main items responsible for this drop in value were diamonds, sugar, balata, and timber, which showed decreases of £228,355, £138,108, £28,138, and £11,747 respectively.

The exports of rice were the largest since the inception of this industry, 40,506,251 lb., to the value of £232,114, having been shipped. The 1927 exports were 25,752,411 lb., valued at £150,806.

The increase in the exports of copra was also substantial, the quantity shipped being 7,841,944 lb., valued at £73,442, as compared with 2,605,818 lb., at a value of £24,276 exported in 1927.

Coffee showed an increase over 1927 exports of 489,229 lb., valued at £14,393, the shipment for the year under review being 919,772 lb., valued at £28,736.

The quantity of rum shipped was 1,269,923 proof gallons, at a value of £120,060, an increase over 1927, when the exports were 1,081,020 proof gallons, valued at £107,592.

Sugar to the extent of 114,687 tons, valued at £1,692,639, was exported, and although the quantity shipped was greater than that of the previous year by 5,071 tons, yet there was a large decrease in value, amounting to £138,108.

40. The United Kingdom accounted for slightly over 40 per cent. of the total trade, or about the same percentage as in the previous year. The imports at 55 per cent. showed a small percentage increase on those of 1927, while the exports at 31 per cent. dropped to the extent of 2 per cent.

Canada's 30 per cent. of the total trade compares about the same as in 1927, but United States accounted for only 9 per cent. of trade with the Colony as against 11 per cent. in the previous year.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom were :—

	£
Cotton piece goods	206,052
Metal manufactures	83,355
Manures	70,193
Bags and sacks	61,482
Edible oils	54,474
Manufactured tobacco	47,326
Common soap	42,038

The main supplies from Canada were :—

	£
Flour	239,148
Fresh vegetables	31,921
Lumber	28,669
Oats	23,990
Boots and shoes	21,753
Motor-cars	21,578

Pickled meat (£25,423) and leaf tobacco (£9,034) were the principal commodities imported from the United States of America.

41. The total value of domestic exports to the United Kingdom amounted to £939,494, of which sugar was responsible for £566,312 ; diamonds, £126,394 ; rum, £92,978 ; and balata, £46,135. Other exports to the Mother Country were copra (£45,924), gold (£15,770), and molasses (£15,021).

Canada was again the Colony's best market for her produce, the value of export trade with her being £1,129,805. The principal exports to the Dominion were sugar (£1,122,401), molasses (£3,273), and rum (£3,136). Of the sugar exported, 67 per cent. went to Canada, as compared with 65 per cent. in 1927.

All of the bauxite exported (viz. : 167,616 tons, valued at £174,915) went to the United States of America, which country also took 849,866 gallons of molasses valued at £8,853.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

42. Regular steamship communication is maintained with the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, the West Indies, and the Dutch and French Guianas. The principal lines

calling here are the Harrison Direct Line, the Trinidad Line, the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company, the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, the Canadian National Steamships, the Ocean Dominion Steamship Corporation, the Aluminium Line, and the Dutch Government steamers from Surinam.

Railways.

43. There are three lines of single-track railway in the Colony, of which two were acquired by the Government from the late Demerara Railway Company and one is owned and operated by Messrs. Sprotons, Limited, a local company. One of the Government lines runs from Georgetown along the east coast of Demerara for a distance of $60\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Rosignol on the left bank of the Berbice river and diagonally opposite New Amsterdam. The other runs along the west coast of Demerara for a distance of $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles, starting at Vreed-en-Hoop on the left bank of the Demerara river and ending at Parika, a point on the coast immediately opposite the island of Leguan in the estuary of the Essequibo river.

44. Messrs. Sprotons' line of railway runs from Wismar on the left bank of the Demerara river to Rockstone on the right bank of the Essequibo river, a distance of about $18\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and forms an important link in the means available for reaching the Potaro gold and diamond diggings. In connection with this railway, a tri-weekly service of steamers and steam launches is run on the Demerara and Essequibo rivers.

Roads.

45. Roads, with an aggregate length of 272 miles and a good motoring surface, extend along the coastlands from Skeldon on the Corentyne river to Charity on the Pomeroon river, and also along the lower reaches of the principal rivers for short distances, but do not penetrate inland. Communication beyond these limits is, generally speaking, by water, but there are also roads and paths in the interior. These are as follows :—

In the North-West District, between Arakaka on the Barima river and Towakaima on the Barima river, a distance of 29 miles, with a branch line to Five Stars, a distance of 17 miles ; and from the Barima river, opposite Morawhanna, to Wanaina Creek, a distance of 11 miles, eight of which are suitable for motor traffic. The latter road passes over the Mabaruma hills, on which are situated the Government offices for the administration of the District, a public hospital, &c.

In the Potaro District, between Tumatumari and St. Mary, Konawaruk, $14\frac{3}{4}$ miles, and Potaro Landing and Minnehaha, $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles, with a connecting trail from the six-mile post on the former road to the ten-mile post on the latter (known as the Tiger Creek Line), a distance of $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and a trail from the $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile post on

the Potaro North Fork Road to Kangaruma on the right bank of the River Potaro, a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

In the Essequibo District, between Bartica on the Essequibo river and Kaburi on the Mazaruni river, a distance of $78\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and between Lower Camaria and Upper Camaria on the Cuyuni river, a distance of $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Bartica, at the junction of the Essequibo and Mazaruni rivers, is connected by path to Kaburi on the latter river, and from there trails extend to Potaro Landing on the Potaro river, a distance of 32 miles, and to Tiboku Falls, a distance of about 76 miles, on the Mazaruni river.

46. A cattle trail is being maintained by the Government between Takama on the Berbice river and Annai on the Rupununi river, a distance of 182 miles, with a branch line to Arakwa, a place approximately opposite Wismar on the Demerara river.

Government Steamer and other Inland Services.

47. The Colonial Transport Department (owned by Government) operates steamers on the following routes :—

Ferries across the Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo rivers.

A steamer service from Georgetown to Morawhanna and Mabaruma, on the Barima and Aruka rivers, North-West District.

Georgetown to Adventure on the Essequibo coast.

Georgetown to Bartica at the junction of the Essequibo, Mazaruni, and Cuyuni rivers.

Georgetown to Pickersgill and other stations on the upper reaches of the Pomeroon river.

Parika to Adventure and Bartica.

New Amsterdam, on the right bank of the Berbice river, to Paradise, 110 miles up that river.

Launch services are also run as follows :—

Charity on the Pomeroon river, up and down the river, and also to Acquero on the Moruka river.

New Amsterdam to Ilkuruwa, up the Canje Creek.

48. Messrs. Sproston, Limited, operate a steamship service between Georgetown, Wismar on the west bank, and Mackenzie on the east bank of the Demerara river ; also a launch service between Wismar and Mallali on the upper reaches of this river. Sailing craft owned by this Company also run between Georgetown and New Amsterdam. Arrangements can be made through Messrs. Sproston for visiting the Kaieteur Falls. The journey is by way of the Demerara and Essequibo rivers, from Georgetown to Wismar on the former river by steamer, thence by train to Rockstone on the latter river, thence by launch to Potaro Landing, thence on foot by a path through the forest seven miles to Kangaruma on the Potaro river, and thence by boat to Tukeit, passing Amatuk waterfall and Waratuk cataract on the way. After leaving Tukeit there is a climb to the

top of Kaieteur. The trip to and from the fall occupies 11 or 12 days and costs approximately £25 a head for a party comprising not less than six persons.

49. There are 1,573 motor-cars, 21 vans, 97 motor-buses, 139 motor-lorries, and 362 motor-cycles in use in the Colony. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of British cars imported.

Postal.

(INCLUDING TELEPHONES, TELEGRAPHS, AND WIRELESS).

50. The Postal Service embraces the whole of the coastlands and extends up the principal rivers. The General Post Office is situated in Georgetown, and there are 51 branch post offices at which all classes of postal work are transacted, including savings bank, money order, and postal order business. The postal agencies are 30 in number, at 18 of which postal orders may be obtained, and the number of travelling post offices is now 10, at four of which postal orders are obtainable. The Post Office also controls the inland telegraph and telephone systems. There are 49 telegraph offices, connected by 574 miles of wire. Up-to-date telephone systems are operated in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, to which there are 1,000 and 125 subscribers, respectively, both exchanges being in continuous service. During June, 1928, a stronger automatic exchange was opened at Georgetown to which are connected 100 subscribers. In addition there are ten country sub-exchanges, two of which were converted in October, 1927, and one in December, 1928, to a semi-automatic continuous service. A separate police and railway service is operated.

51. The Georgetown Wireless Station (taken over from the Admiralty) is in communication with ships at sea and neighbouring points, and a direction-finding station is also maintained. In conjunction with the main station five stations have been established in the interior of the Colony.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

THE SUPREME COURT.

52. The work of the Supreme Court may be said to fall into the following divisions :—Civil, Criminal, Appellate, Matrimonial, Admiralty, Insolvency, Probate, Petitions, and Parate Execution cases.

Civil cases.—These may be said to constitute the most important branch of the work of the Court, as one or other of the three Judges of the Court sits to hear such cases almost continuously throughout the year except during the statutory vacation of the Court in the months of July and August each year. The jurisdiction in civil cases is exercised by any single one of the three Judges of the Court, an appeal from a final judgment of a Judge in cases of amounts exceeding \$250 being provided at present (since 1921) to the West

Indian Court of Appeal; while appeals in cases of amounts not exceeding \$250 and in cases of certain kinds of interlocutory orders, go to a bench composed of the other two Judges of the Court, constituting the "Full Court" or "Appeal Court," as is hereinafter stated. In 1928 the Court sat by one or more of its Judges on 161 days (Saturdays not being included). A Judge of the Court holds what is commonly called the Bail Court every Saturday for dealing with specially endorsed writs, applications in actions, bankruptcy matters, &c. 421 civil cases were instituted during the year 1928, while 474 cases were disposed of, withdrawn, or abandoned, the numbers for the years 1926 and 1927 being:—

					<i>Instituted.</i>	<i>Disposed of.</i>
1926	...	...	...	...	366	192
1927	...	...	...	...	420	426

The Court usually sits in Georgetown, where cases from the less important counties of Berbice and Essequibo also are generally heard, but any civil cases required by the Rules of Court to be heard in the County of Berbice are as a rule taken by the Judge at the conclusion of the Criminal Sessions held in that County in February, June, and October each year; the rules provide that Essequibo actions shall be heard in Georgetown, so that the Court never sits to hear civil cases in that County.

Criminal cases.—Statutory provision is made for sittings of the Court in the exercise of its criminal jurisdiction, in every year in each of the three Counties of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, as follows:—In Demerara in the months of January, April, June, and October; in Essequibo in February, May, and October; and in Berbice in February, June, and October. Power is given to the Governor to suspend or postpone any such sitting by proclamation, but this power has very seldom been exercised. The practice has been for two Judges to sit concurrently in Georgetown, the Chief Justice being, as a rule, in what is called "the first Court" and a Puisne Judge in "the second Court." Only one Judge attends the sittings in Berbice and Essequibo, which are sometimes, but not correctly, referred to as "circuit" sittings. In 1928 the criminal cases for trial included 15 for murder, 3 for manslaughter, and 85 for other offences; these resulted in 13 convictions for murder, 1 for manslaughter, and 65 for other offences. The figures for the years 1926 and 1927 are as follows:—

					<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Convictions.</i>
1926 :						
Murder	...	...	...	...	5	2
Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	8	6
Other Offences	...	...	...	...	78	47
1927 :						
Murder	...	...	...	...	11	7
Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	6	2
Other Offences	...	...	...	...	48	34

A case being stated by the Judge on a question of law arising in the trial, an appeal lies to the West Indian Court of Appeal.

Appellate cases.—The “ Full Court ” (i.e., a Bench composed of the three Judges or not less than two of them) of the Supreme Court sits as a rule every Friday to hear (1) appeals from single Judges and/or (2) appeals from Magistrates, the Court, speaking generally, having jurisdiction only over appeals from certain kinds of interlocutory orders of a single Judge and from final judgments of a single Judge in cases of amounts not exceeding \$250 (in both instances the Judge’s leave to appeal has to be obtained), while appeals from final judgments of a Judge in cases of amounts exceeding \$250 go at present to the West Indian Court of Appeal. In 1928 the total number of appeals disposed of was 20, as compared with 32 in 1926, and 31 in 1927. Generally speaking, no further appeal from a decision of a Judge or Magistrate lies from the decision of the Full Court.

Matrimonial cases.—The jurisdiction in these cases, as in civil cases is exercised singly by each of the three Judges of the Court. In 1928 the Court dealt with 15 cases of this kind, as compared with 23 cases in 1926, and 5 in 1927.

Admiralty cases.—The jurisdiction in these cases also is exercised by each of the three Judges singly. Cases of this kind are not frequent. In 1928 as in 1926 and 1927 there was none.

Insolvency cases.—These are usually heard in Georgetown by a Judge in the Bail Court on Saturdays, without regard to whether they arise in Demerara, Berbice, or Essequibo. The Insolvency Ordinance, 1900 (No. 29) is based on the English Bankruptcy Act, 1883. In 1928 the Court dealt with 18 petitions for Receiving Orders, seven being by creditors and 11 by the debtors themselves, the number of petitions in 1927 being 13 (7 by creditors and 6 by the debtors themselves), while in 1926 there were 7 petitions (2 by creditors and 5 by the debtors themselves). Six Administration Orders were made in 1928, as against seven in 1927, and five in 1926, and applications for discharge from insolvency were made and granted in those years as follows :—1928, three ; 1927, five ; 1926, four.

Probate cases.—Cases of actions for probate in Solemn form are not frequent. Probate in Common form is usually granted by an Order of a Judge (usually the Chief Justice) on an application paper submitted to him, accompanied by the will, the probate copy of the will, the executor’s oath, and the estate duty papers, and a certificate by the Registrar (appended at the foot of the application paper) that the papers are in order for probate. In 1928 there were 272 such applications, as against 334 in 1927, and 314 in 1926. Letters of Administration for intestate estates were granted in 1928 as follows :—

By a Judge (usually the Chief Justice) of the	
Court (estates over \$250)	57
By the Registrar (estates not exceeding \$250) ...	39

The figures for the years 1926 and 1927 being as follows :—

	1926.	1927.
By a Judge	45	82
By the Registrar	37	34

Petitions.—These are required by the Rules of the Court to be addressed to, and are dealt with by, the Chief Justice. Some of them are of a formal nature, e.g., petitions for leave to levy on immovable property pursuant to a Magistrate's Court judgment, and petitions for leave to sell a minor's property, but some are important and involve questions of law. In 1928 there were 158 petitions filed, and 146 Orders on petitions were made, including 23 Fiat Executio Orders, i.e., Orders for leave to levy on immovable property. In 1927 the figures were : 191 petitions filed, 163 Orders made, including 26 Fiat Executio Orders, while in 1926 there were 140 petitions filed, 123 Orders made, including 29 Fiat Executio Orders.

Parate Execution Proceedings.—These are relics of the Roman Dutch practice, in which the Judge without a trial makes a summary order for the recovery of debts due to the Colony, Town Taxes, Village Rates, &c., &c. A "Summation" calling on the debtor to pay within a certain time is the first step. On failure to pay within the time stated, the summation is laid before a Judge for his "fiat" which, being granted, the marshal levies on and later, after advertisement, sells the property of the debtor. Proceedings of this kind may be either *in personam* or *in rem*, the latter form being the more common. In 1928, fiats were granted as follows :—Town Taxes, 184 ; Village Rates, 1,146 ; other matters, 97 ; the figures for the years 1926 and 1927 being :—

	1926.	1927.
Town Taxes	256	252
Village Rates	926	1,343
Other Matters	71	86

53. The Chief Justice of the Colony functions as one of the Judges of the West Indian Court of Appeal, and in that capacity is required to attend sittings of that Court outside the Colony from time to time during each year. In 1928 the Chief Justice attended sittings of the Court outside the Colony at St. Vincent in January and at Trinidad, Antigua, and Barbados in August and September. In that year there was a sitting of the Court in this Colony from 13th to 16th February at which two appeals were disposed of, both being allowed.

MAGISTRATE'S COURTS.

54. There are 41 Magistrate's Courts in the Colony. 37,104 cases were instituted in these Courts during the year, of which 17,972 were Civil and 19,132 Criminal. At the beginning of 1928 there were 114 Civil and 95 Criminal cases undisposed of, and at the close of the year there were 160 Civil and 129 Criminal cases pending.

Police.

55. The police force is an armed semi-military force employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the repression of internal disturbances and the defence of the Colony against external aggression.

56. Crimes reported to or known to the police during the year numbered 6,219. They comprised 28 homicides, 661 reports of other offences against the person, 64 cases of praedial larceny, 2,767 reports of other offences against property, and 2,699 reports of other crimes. The numbers of persons proceeded against in connection with the foregoing figures were : 27 for homicides, 670 for other offences against the person, 66 for praedial larceny, 955 for other offences against property, and 3,282 for other crimes.

57. No strikes or disturbances of any kind occurred throughout the year.

Prisons.

58. The prisons of the Colony comprise three main prisons and three small ones in remote and sparsely-populated districts. The two principal prisons are the Penal Settlement at the confluence of the Mazaruni and Cuyuni rivers, containing 306 ordinary cells and an infirmary with one large ward for convicts, one for warders, and six observation cells ; and the Georgetown Prison, containing 246 cells, 4 association wards, 2 hospital wards, and 2 rooms for debtors.

59. The prison staffs together comprise 14 superior officers, including prison surgeons and chaplains, 56 subordinate officers and 3 matrons.

60. Prisoners are employed at various trades supplying the internal requirements of the prison, on public works and in the cutting of firewood, and their labour is also used on the prisons farms. The English Mark System is in force and is applicable to all prisoners sentenced to 12 months and upwards. None of the prisons is on the complete separate system. All prisoners are worked in association, but the principle that each cell should contain one occupant only is strictly observed except in the case of patients in hospital or associated wards.

61. The number of prisoners committed to the different prisons during the year was : males, 1,599 ; females, 207 ; total, 1,806.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

62. During the year the sea defences were well maintained, and all main roads were kept in fair condition. Facilities for prospectors and other workers in the interior, such as the clearing of creeks, the making of bridle-paths and trails, and the maintenance of portages around the falls in the various rivers, were maintained. Good

progress was made with the drainage and pure-water supply schemes for the more thickly populated areas of the coastlands. The coastal drainage schemes for the county of Essequibo and the Corentyne District were mostly completed during the year and the residents and farmers appreciate the benefits derived from these works. A total of 31 artesian wells of an average depth of 750 feet have been completed and all give a good potable water. The Department expended during 1928 a sum of £205,000 on ordinary maintenance works and special works for which specific votes were provided in the Annual and Supplementary Estimates.

63. The work on the Georgetown Improvement Schemes has continued since the termination of the contracts with the late contractors at the end of April, 1927, by direct labour under the supervision of the Resident Engineer.

64. The main drainage scheme is expected to be completed by March, 1929. A total of 150 sewer lengths has been taken up and relaid in whole or in part, and more than one half of the city has been put into regular operation for taking sewerage.

65. A total of 223,625 lineal feet of completed house connections has been constructed since 1st May, 1927, up to December, 1928. Up to date a total of about 63 miles of house connections work has been laid in Georgetown, and it is hoped that the whole of the works will be completed by the end of 1929.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

66. The birth and death rates noted below have been calculated on the Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the Colony at the 31st December, 1928, which was 307,784 or 155,361 males and 152,423 females.

67. 8,702 births—4,382 boys and 4,320 girls—were registered during the year. In 1927 the number was 10,041—5,127 boys and 4,914 girls. The birth-rate was 28.3 per 1,000 of the population; that for 1927 was 32.6 and for 1926 34.7. The numbers and birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of each of the several races representing the community were as follows :—

<i>Races.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Birth-rate per thousand.</i>
Europeans (other than Portuguese)	33	11.2
Europeans (Portuguese)	188	22.4
East Indians	3,850	30.3
Chinese	79	28.1
Aborigines	252	28.7
Blacks... ..	3,255	26.6
Mixed Races	1,043	29.8

Of the births registered 4,349 or 50.0 per cent. were legitimate, and 4,353 or 50.0 per cent. illegitimate.

68. The deaths registered were 8,575—4,556 males and 4,019 females. In the previous year the figures were 8,024—4,322 males and 3,702 females. The death rate was 27.9 per 1,000 of the population. In 1927 it was 26.0 and in 1926 25.5. The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population of the various races was as follows:

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	12.6	} 25.5
Europeans (Portuguese)	... ..	30.0	
East Indians	... ..	32.9	
Chinese	... ..	16.4	
Aborigines	... ..	39.5	
Blacks...	... ..	25.1	
Mixed Races	... ..	17.8	

Infantile mortality.—The number of children who died under one year of age was 1,607, or 185 per 1,000 births, in 1928, as compared with 1,589, or 158 per 1,000 in 1927. The following table shows the proportion of deaths of the children under one year of age of each race to every 1,000 births of each such race for the year under review :—

Races.

Europeans (other than Portuguese)	...	—	} 131
Europeans (Portuguese)	... ..	154	
East Indians	... ..	209	
Chinese	... ..	63	
Aborigines	... ..	202	
Blacks...	... ..	177	
Mixed Races	... ..	137	

69. During the year the most prevalent disease was malaria and always has been.

There is also widespread helminthic infection, but these infections are not notifiable.

The total number of deaths registered as directly due to malaria was 1,563 against 1,715 for 1927, the death rate being 5.1 as against 5.6 per 1,000 persons in 1927.

There was a decrease in the number of notified cases of enteric fever, 224 cases being notified in 1928 as against 263 in 1927. The number of cases of tuberculosis notified in 1928 was 292 as against 289 in 1927, the number of deaths being 301 and 345 respectively. No cases of severe epidemic disease such as smallpox occurred during the year, but 51 cases of chicken-pox and 35 of diphtheria were notified.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

70. During the school year 1927–1928, the enrolment of pupils in elementary schools was 44,927 and the average number in attendance 31,500. The figures for the previous year were 46,105 and 31,250

respectively. The grants to schools amounted to £80,433—£1,666 being spent on the training of teachers and pupil teachers of whom 1,455 were employed. In addition to the subjects usually included in the elementary school curriculum, classes in special subjects—woodwork and domestic subjects—were carried on at an expenditure of £383. All the elementary schools are aided denominational schools.

71. A Teachers' Training Centre was established by Government in Georgetown on 11th September, 1928. 30 students were enrolled for a two years' course of instruction.

Secondary Education.

72. Facilities for secondary education for boys are provided at one Government school—Queen's College—at St. Stanislaus' College (a Roman Catholic school), and at the Berbice High School for Boys, which is conducted by the Canadian Presbyterian Mission. The latter receives a Government grant of £416 per annum. Secondary education for girls is provided at the Bishop's High School for Girls (Church of England), the Ursuline Convent (Roman Catholic), and the Berbice High School for Girls (Canadian Presbyterian Mission), which receive annual grants of £416, £208, and £208 respectively from public funds. There are also a number of other schools providing intermediate or secondary education which are conducted by individuals or denominations. One of these, St. Joseph's Intermediate School, receives a grant of £100 per annum. During 1928 the total cost of secondary education falling on Government funds was £5,918—£3,810 being the approximate net cost on account of Queen's College, and £2,108 being issued as grants to the aided secondary schools already named. The work of these schools is tested principally by the examinations of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board, which are taken by the pupils of Queen's College, and of the Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate which are taken by the other schools. In 1928 the results were as follows :

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE JOINT BOARD.

				<i>Entered.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>
Higher Certificate...	...	...	...	5	4
School Certificate	...	...	...	13	8
Lower Certificate ...	...	...	...	12	5

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE.

		<i>Entered.</i>		<i>Passed.</i>	
		<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>
Higher Certificate	...	—	—	—	—
School Certificate	...	34	19	10	8
Junior Certificate	...	112	70	45	32
Preliminary ...	...	67	68	28	24

Assistance in obtaining higher education is afforded by various scholarships. The Government annually awards seven scholarships for boys and five for girls, to enable pupils from elementary schools to attend a recognised secondary school for four years or longer. Another Government Scholarship is awarded annually to the boy or girl taking first place in the Cambridge Local Preliminary Examination. Queen's College Scholarships are awarded annually to boys attending Queen's College who reach a certain standard in the Oxford and Cambridge School Certificate Examination. The Guiana Scholarship which is awarded annually on the results of the Higher Certificate examination of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board, and is of the total value of £900, affords a means whereby a student, whether boy or girl, may proceed to a university or institution of university rank in the British Empire. In addition to the above, certain scholarships have been provided by private benefactions. The Mitchell Foundation gives three scholarships in two years for boys and one annually for girls, all tenable for four years, on the results of the Cambridge Preliminary Local Examination. The Blair Bequest provides biennially a scholarship to a pupil under 14 years of age from an aided elementary school. A Trust Fund, created under the will of Pierre Louis de Saffon, a resident of the Colony who died over a century ago, undertakes the education and maintenance of a certain number of boys and girls, the number varying according to the revenue derived from the fund.

Industrial Education.

73. Industrial education in the Colony is provided for by the Industrial Training Ordinance No. 6 of 1910 and the Government Industrial School Ordinance No. 8 of 1907. A Board of Industrial Training, appointed under the first-named Ordinance, provides for the indenture of apprentices in different trades, such as engineering, building, printing, shipping, clothing, &c. Ordinance No. 8 of 1907 makes provision for the instruction and training of vagrant boys and youthful male offenders under the age of 16 years and until the age of 18.

74. The Onderneeming Industrial School, which was established under the latter Ordinance, has accommodation for 200 boys. The number of inmates on the 31st December, 1928, was 133, whilst the daily average during the year was 143.25. The actual net cost to the Colony per diem was 14½*d.* as against 15½*d.* for 1927. About 45 per cent. of the inmates have been trained in agriculture on the school farm, where coffee, cocoa, rubber, limes, and coconuts are grown and cured. Of the remainder, a number of boys are trained in the baking of bread, in carpentry, and in tailoring. Practical use is being made of the carpenter's shop, which carries out all minor repairs to the school buildings and makes school furniture for the Education Department and for sale. The bakery supplies bread, not only for the school, but for Suddie Hospital and for sale to

residents of the neighbourhood. A number of boys are also being trained in the school factory, where distilled oil of limes and concentrated lime juice are manufactured, cornmeal is ground, and rice hulled and cleaned. The school is run on purely educational and informative lines, and the boys are taught to look on the institution as a place of improvement and not of punishment.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Lands.

75. The total area of the Colony is 57,266,874 acres. Of this, 745,930 acres had been absolutely alienated at the end of 1928, principally along the coastal belt for a distance of two to three miles in from the coast, but partly up the tidal portions of the rivers. Most of this land was alienated during the Dutch occupation and very little is now sold outright, the present policy being to lease Crown lands for periods up to 99 years with right of renewal for a further similar period rather than dispose of them outright. Small homesteads up to 10 acres are sold under conditional grants if desired, but the majority prefer to lease and only 5,124 acres were issued under grant in 1928. The area held under leases and licences of occupancy for long-time periods at the end of 1928 totalled 235,426 acres.

76. About 88 per cent. of the area of the Colony is forest covered, the total area in forest being estimated at 50,355,200 acres. Owing to the rivers being cataract-barred and the absence of railways, only about seven million acres of forest land can be regarded as commercially accessible. Of this, about 384,163 acres were held under lease and licence for woodcutting purposes at the end of 1928. Balata gum is collected over a very large area of the forest and forms a valuable export, and at the end of 1928 licences to collect balata covered about 10,848,000 acres.

77. Apart from the land artificially cleared for agriculture, the unforested area consists of "savannahs" (or open grass and scrub lands) much of which provides rough grazing of varying value. These are divided into the coastal or wet savannahs which mostly lie behind the agricultural estates on the coast and unless empoldered and drained are of little use for grazing in the wet seasons; the intermediate or "sand and scrub" savannahs mostly situated within tidal influence on the Berbice and Demerara rivers; and the "hinterland" savannahs lying beyond the Pakaraima sandstone plateaux. These latter are joined to the Berbice and Demerara savannahs by a cattle trail about 120 miles long through the forest, which was constructed and is maintained by Government. At the end of 1928 about 1,096,438 acres of savannah land were held under grazing rights, mostly on a yearly title renewable as of course each year if the terms have been complied with (unless required for more

important purposes, which is a remote possibility in most cases) and about 1,459,898 acres were held under grazing leases for periods up to 99 years. There is little or no export trade in cattle at present, but the local market is plentifully supplied with beef and milk and a small export trade is done in hides.

Survey.

78. All surveys for issue of title for Crown lands are carried out by Government. Agricultural tracts are surveyed precisely and connected up to other surveyed tracts wherever possible to enable them to be accurately shown on the cadastral maps. No framework survey of the Colony has yet been made and the work of connecting up tracts laid out for issue of title was neglected in years gone by with the result that there is much traverse work to be done up all the rivers before reliable plans can be drawn. This work is now being steadily if slowly carried on so far as funds will permit, but the absence of plans in the early period following the Dutch occupation has led to the unsatisfactory layout of holdings in many districts. The area precisely surveyed for issue of title in 1928 totalled 4,191 acres and 7 miles of traverse.

79. Areas taken up under woodcutting licences are surveyed by chain and compass and are connected by compass and pacing or time and compass surveys along the trails and creeks wherever practicable. The area surveyed for woodcutting purposes in 1928 totalled 183,000 acres.

Topographical Surveys.

80. Owing to the decision of the Forestry Department to investigate the timber possibilities of that section of country between the Cuyuni and Supenaam rivers with a view to the declaration of a Forest Reserve, a topographical triangulation of the lower reaches of the Cuyuni river was commenced from the permanent mark at His Majesty's Penal Settlement planted in connection with the triangulation of the Essequibo river and extended up the Cuyuni river to the foot of the Kamaria Falls by a double series of triangles. Vertical angles were taken along this, and other sections of the river triangulated to ascertain differences of levels. From this point the survey proceeded by primary traverse (permissible error 1 in 2,000) with spirit levels along the left bank of the river for a distance of six miles and thence up river to the Arawak Matope Falls by a single series of triangles. At this point owing to the broken nature of the country an exploratory traverse was run along the flat islands with which the river at this point is studded, but the attempt had to be abandoned owing to the abnormal rise of the river, and the original proposal of surveying along the river bank reverted to. Permanent marks were established on each section of the survey. The total distance covered by the primary control was 32 miles. A secondary traverse 3 miles long was run to connect the primary control with

the permanent marks of the Forestry Survey on the left bank of the Cuyuni which had been established about 1,000 feet above the top of Muruwa Rapids.

81. The Hydrographic survey of the Essequibo Estuary which is being made for the Harbour Board under the direction of Captain C. M. Gibson, O.B.E., R.N. (retired) was extended up the Mazaruni river from the Penal Settlement to the foot of the first rapids. A channel for ocean going steamers was found and loading berths selected.

The triangulation of this survey will be utilized as a part of the control framework of the Colony and to this end permanent marks to connect up future surveys are being established by the Lands and Mines Department at suitable points and their positions with reference to triangulation stations carefully fixed.

Geological Surveys.

82. The detailed examination of the gold areas in the Potaro-Mahdia-Konawaruk areas, the desirability for which was indicated by the preliminary examination in 1926, was carried out during the year and the report with accompanying plan has been published as Sessional Paper. No. 9/28.

During the latter part of the year the Geological Survey was engaged on a detailed examination of approximately 200 square miles of the Mazaruni-Puruni Diamond Fields embracing the Oranapai and Buck Canister districts with a view to mapping the diamond bearing alluvials.

Road Location Surveys.

83. The road location surveys between Tumatumari on the Potaro river and Tiboku on the Mazaruni river which was commenced during the previous year under the direction of Mr. John Leggate, Railway Engineer from the Malay States, were completed. A bench mark referring to Georgetown datum was established at the lower landing of the portage at Tumatumari.

XI.—LABOUR.

84. Labour in the Colony may be classed under the heads plantation labour (sugar and rice), forest labour (gold and diamond fields, balata collecting, and woodcutting), and labour in towns (porters, &c.). As regards plantation labour and labour for the rice fields, these are supplied mainly by East Indians, and the extension of these industries at the present time is somewhat hampered by a shortage of this class of labour. Labour for the forest industries and manual labour in the towns is confined mainly to negroes and those of negro descent, and the supply is sufficient for existing needs.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

85. There were 36 public Ordinances and one private Ordinance passed during the year. The principal of these were :—

The Sulphuric Acid Ordinance, 1928, (No. 7). Previous to the passing of this Ordinance there was no law in existence governing the sale and control of sulphuric acid which is largely used in the Colony. Sulphuric acid could be purchased at various stores without any restrictions ; no information was given or required. It was also the practice to keep it for long periods lying about the various wharves, in many cases in uncorked demijohns and drums. Recently there have been cases of persons being wilfully injured by the throwing of this acid, and the Police were unable to trace where the acid was obtained. The Ordinance regulated its importation, storage, removal, and sale.

The Naturalization (Deprivation) Ordinance, 1928, (No. 8) provides for the loss of local naturalization by foreign naturalization in the case of an alien who has been granted a certificate of local naturalization in the Colony and who subsequently obtains naturalization in some foreign state. Provision is also made for the revocation of local naturalization. Sections 3 and 4 of the Ordinance contain the provisions, with the necessary modifications, of section 7 and 7A of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, (4 & 5 Geo. 5. c. 17) as amended in accordance with the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1918, (8 & 9 Geo. 5. c. 38). Section 5 follows section 13 of the Act of 1914.

The Trade Marks Ordinance, 1928, (No. 20), amends the local Trade Marks Ordinance, 1914, so as to bring local legislation into line with the English Trade Marks Act, 1919, (9 & 10 Geo. 5. c. 79), and is a reproduction, with the necessary local modifications, of that Act. The Ordinance of 1914 corresponds to the Trade Marks Act, 1905, (5 Ed. 7. c. 15).

The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance, 1928, (No. 23). Provides, that when a sinking fund becomes potentially full before the due date for the repayment of the loan, contribution to the sinking fund may be discontinued with the approval of the Secretary of State. Contributions shall be recommenced however if the Governor considers it necessary.

The War Graves Ordinance, 1928, (No. 24). The Imperial War Graves Commission which is charged with the duty of caring for and the erection of permanent memorials on all war graves asked for the exclusive rights of burial in perpetuity in respect of war graves in this Colony. The Ordinance accordingly provides for the transfer of the title and the registration thereof in respect of local war graves.

The Nurses Retiring Allowances Ordinance, 1928, (No. 28). Provides for the grant of retiring allowances to Nurses selected by the Overseas Nursing Association and who have served in the Colony.

The Quarantine Ordinance, 1928, (No. 35). The importance of safeguarding countries from invasion of major epidemic diseases,

has received particular attention during the last few years in England. Other European countries were consulted so that combined action for the good of all might be taken. As a result of these International Conferences the existing quarantine procedure was found to be capable of simplification and improvement, chiefly as the result of increased knowledge of these diseases and of their means of spread; two additional diseases, viz., typhus and smallpox are to receive special attention in addition to cholera, plague, and yellow fever which were the only three diseases specifically dealt with previously. Communications from the Ministry of Health indicated the lines on which modifications of existing Quarantine Laws might best be made. As a result the West Indian Conference, of which British Guiana is a member, was summoned, and the Surgeon-General attended as the Delegate of the Colony. The Ordinance embodies the results of agreement to take concerted action by all the members of the Conference, and consolidates all previous Ordinances; so that all legislation relating to quarantine is now presented in a compact form.

Visits to the Colony.

86. Mr. Percy Hurd, M.P., Honorary Secretary of the West Indies Parliamentary Committee of members of the Houses of Lords and Commons, visited the Colony in January on a holiday tour.

87. A party of students and members of the staff of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at Trinidad visited the Colony during the latter part of March and arrangements were made for a tour of inspection of the rice fields, sugar estates, and various places of interest.

XIII.—GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

88. The following publications of the British Guiana Government are on sale at the offices of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London. S.W.1, at the prices indicated :—

Handbook of the Colony	1s. each.
Agricultural Journal of British Guiana	6d. each.
"Rubber and Balata in British Guiana"	6d. each.
"Timbers of British Guiana"	5s. each.
Memorandum of terms on which Crown Land can be bought.	2d. each.

Annual Reports of—

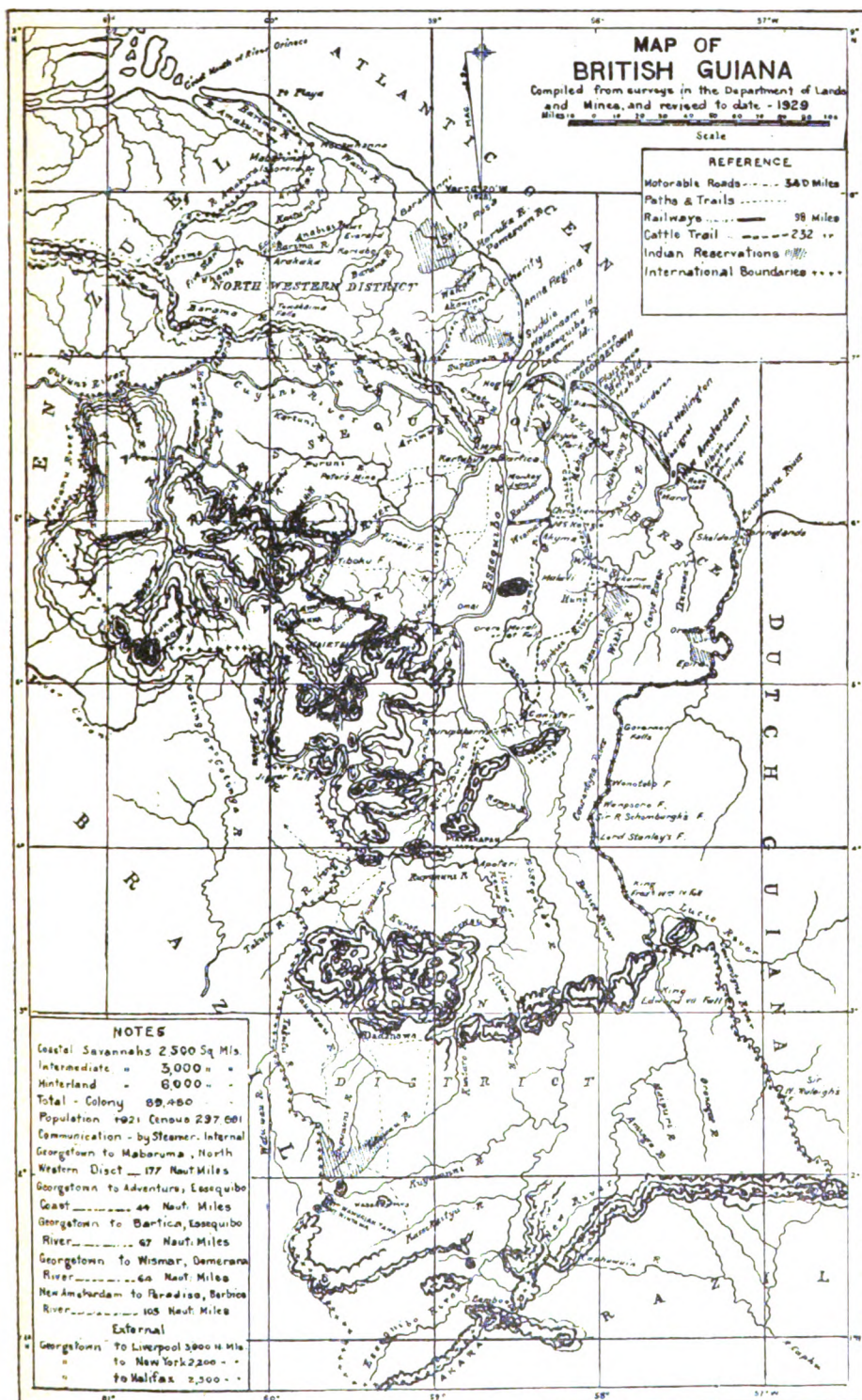
Colonial Transport Department... ..	}d. per page with maximum charge of 1s. each.
Comptroller of Customs	
Commissioner of Lands and Mines	
Conservator of Forests	
Director of Education	
Director of Agriculture	
Director of Public Works	
Director of Widows' and Orphans' Fund	
Local Government Board	
Official Receiver and Public Trustee	
Postmaster-General	
Registrar-General... ..	
Harbour Board	
And any others likely to be of interest.	

Copies of British Guiana Ordinances likely to be of interest to persons outside the Colony.	2d. per page with maximum charge of 2s. per Ordinance.
Regulations passed under these Ordinances	2d. per page with maximum charge of 2s.
Volumes of revised edition of the Laws of British Guiana to 1921.	6 guineas per set (half calf). 5 guineas per set (stiff paper). £1.
Blue Book	£1.
Legislative Council papers likely to be of interest to persons outside the Colony.	½d. per page with maximum charge of 1s.
Copies of Railway tariffs and time tables... ..	Free of charge.
Report of a Preliminary Survey of the Mazaruni and Puruni Diamond Fields, British Guiana (Part I), by Mr. H. J. C. Conolly.	15s. per copy (at the Crown Agents).

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Colonial Secretary.

18th May, 1929.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report.

[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.] 4s. 0d. (4s. 6d.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.

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PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1928.

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BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS PROTECTORATE.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE	2
I.—GENERAL	3
II.—FINANCE	6
III.—PRODUCTION	6
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS	8
V.—COMMUNICATIONS	9
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	10
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS	11
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH	11
IX.—EDUCATION	12
X.—LANDS AND SURVEY	12
XI.—LABOUR	12
MAP.	

PREFACE.

Historical and Geographical Note.

The Solomon Islands were first discovered in the year 1568 by Alvaro de Mendana while on a voyage of discovery from Peru. The Island of Ysabel was first sighted and Mendana bestowed the Christian name of his wife upon the new discovery. In the year 1595 a second expedition under Mendana sailed from Peru, but this time the Solomon Islands were not located. Mendana, however, arrived in the Santa Cruz Group and founded a settlement at Graciosa Bay. The new colony proved abortive and the settlement short-lived, for dissensions and insubordination among the members of the Colony, sickness and conflicts with the natives, and the death of Mendana, put an end to any prospect of colonisation and the remnants of the original party returned to Peru.

For some two hundred years the Solomon Islands were apparently untouched by Europeans, but from 1767, when Captain Carteret rediscovered the Santa Cruz group and the north-west coast line of Malaita, numbers of Europeans visited these islands. Gradually missionaries established themselves and mission societies were founded, the first being the French Mission Society of Saint Mary in the year 1845, and five years later the Melanesian Mission arrived. Later still, resident traders came and between the years 1860 and 1893 they increased in number.

A British Protectorate over the South Solomon Islands was declared in the year 1893, other islands being brought within the Protectorate during the years 1898 and 1900.

The Protectorate extends north-west and south-east for a distance of 900 miles, and north and south for a distance of 430 miles.

Language.

There is no universal language in the Solomon Islands. Numerous dialects are spoken and it frequently happens that natives living in villages a few miles apart are unable to understand one another. There are many parts of the Protectorate, however, where "pidgin" English is spoken and understood by the natives, especially in the Eastern parts of the group.

Currency.

Imperial and Australian sterling coins are the sole legal metallic currency. Local currency notes are issued for sums of 5s., 10s., £1, and £5.

Weights and Measures.

The weights and measures in the Protectorate are the same as those of Great Britain.

I.—GENERAL.

In a brief summary of the principal events of importance affecting the progress of affairs in the Protectorate during the year 1928, reference must first be made to those matters directly arising out of the tragic massacre of the Government party at Sinarango, Malaita, on the 4th October, 1927.

On the 4th April, Mr. R. C. D. Higginson then Chief Police Magistrate in the Fiji Service, arrived in the Protectorate, having been specially appointed a Judicial Commissioner of the High Commissioner's Court for the Western Pacific for the purpose of adjudicating upon the various cases awaiting trial in connection with the Sinarango outrage. The Court opened its sessions on the 10th April following. In all 83 natives were indicted before the Court on charges of murder or of lesser offences connected with the major crime. Seven persons were eventually convicted of murder and condemned to be hanged, while seventeen others were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, the remainder being discharged. Of the seven natives sentenced to capital punishment, six were in due course executed at Tulagi Gaol, the seventh being subsequently reprieved by direction of the High Commissioner and ordered to be detained during His Majesty's pleasure. Having completed his mission Mr. Higginson left the Protectorate again on the 24th July in order to resume his substantive duties in Fiji.

In the meanwhile, on 5th July, Sir Harry C. Moorhouse, Kt., C.M.G., D.S.O., who had been selected by the Secretary of State as a Special Commissioner to inquire into the circumstances attaching to the murderous attacks made upon Government officials at Guadalcanal and Malaita during the year 1927, arrived in the Protectorate accompanied by Mr. H. G. Pilling, Secretary to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. The Special Commissioner took up his quarters at Tulagi and immediately commenced his investigations, which he continued without intermission until his departure from the Protectorate on the 1st September following. He visited various parts of the Protectorate during the course of his inquiries and thereby gained first-hand knowledge of the different Districts and the problems of administration peculiar to each.

On the recommendation of Sir Harry Moorhouse it was finally decided to repatriate all those natives of Sinarango who had been arrested and brought to Tulagi during the course of operations on Malaita and had since been detained there, but against whom either no charges had been preferred or no convictions recorded. A scheme for deporting these natives from Malaita and for settling them on some other island within the Protectorate had previously been under consideration. The work of repatriation was successfully carried out during the months of July and August, necessary transport being provided by the Government vessel *Ranadi*. The last batch of detainees left Tulagi for return to their homes on the 2nd August. Measures were adopted to provide the repatriated natives with a weekly supply of Government rations until such time as their gardens could be revived and they could once more produce a sufficient supply of food to satisfy their daily needs. The issue of rations was continued for a period of some five months, 11,000 lb. of rice in all being distributed as a relief measure. The decision to repatriate instead of deporting the Sinarango detainees appears so far to have been a wise policy on the part of the Administration, no trouble of any description having been reported from this hitherto wild and unruly district since the return of the natives to their homes.

In the month of August the Protectorate received an official visit from Doctor J. D. Tothill, Superintendent of Agriculture, and Mr. R. W. Paine, Assistant Entomologist, of the Fiji Government Service, who were seconded for temporary service in the Protectorate to carry out entomological investigations, in view of the extensive damage caused to coconut plantations throughout the Group by the beetle *Brontispa Froggatti* and other pests and the heavy annual cost incurred in trying to eradicate them. Their visit extended over a period of some two months, during which time, thanks to the courtesy and co-operation of Messrs. Lever's Pacific Plantations Limited, who provided transport facilities wherever necessary, they were enabled to make an extensive tour of the principal coconut

estates in the Protectorate and to collect a considerable amount of valuable information and data. Doctor Tothill's report on the result of his investigations is eagerly awaited by all those whose interests are concerned with the agricultural progress and development of the Group.

A satisfactory advance in medical administration was made during the year under review. The construction of a quarantine station—hitherto non-existent—on an island adjacent to Tulagi was begun during the year and was nearing completion at its close, while four new isolation wards for infectious cases, with separate kitchen, wardmen's quarters, etc., were added to the existing accommodation at Tulagi Hospital. With regard to the medical care and welfare of the natives of the Protectorate, extensive benefit was derived from the mass treatment of yaws and hookworm, which was carried on throughout the year by officers attached to the Rockefeller Assisted Yaws Campaign on the thickly populated island of Malaita and by the travelling Medical Officer in other parts of the Protectorate. Much useful work was also accomplished by the medical officers in charge of the native hospitals at Kokegolo, Su'u, and Vanikoro.

By direction of the High Commissioner, a medical committee was appointed to consider proposals for extending the existing medical establishment so as to render it more adequate to the present requirements of the Protectorate. The Committee, which was presided over by Doctor H. B. Hetherington, Senior Medical Officer, sat at Tulagi from the 14th–16th November and submitted a number of recommendations which are receiving attention.

On the 13th October, Captain R. R. Kane, M.C., who had held the office of Resident Commissioner of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate since March, 1921, proceeded on furlough prior to his retirement on pension. From his departure until the end of the year, Captain N. S. B. Kidson, Secretary to the Government, acted as Resident Commissioner.

It is necessary to record, with deep regret, the death during the year of two European officers of the Protectorate Service. Mr. A. H. Studd, District Officer, Santa Cruz, who had first joined the Protectorate Service as Clerk to the Resident Commissioner in April, 1921, died at the Government Station, Vanikoro, on the 14th October. Mr. Studd was confirmed in the post of District Officer on the 1st January, 1927, and had shown energy and ability in his execution of the more responsible duties of the office to which he had been promoted. Mr. R. W. Stone, who had arrived in the Protectorate four months previously as Clerk and Dispenser to the Medical Department, died at Tulagi Hospital on the 14th September. Pneumonia following acute malarial infection was the cause of death in both cases.

II.—FINANCE.

The total revenue of the Protectorate for the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, was £75,664 6s. 10d., as against £77,444 19s. 0d. for the previous financial year. The total expenditure was £73,993 3s. 10d., as against £63,740 12s. 0d. for the previous year.

The revenue and expenditure for the past five years have been as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Revenue.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1923—1924	...	64,329	15	8	52,655	12	7
1924—1925	...	64,091	6	9	65,409	2	1
1925—1926	...	71,430	5	3	60,330	3	3
1926—1927	...	77,444	19	0	63,740	12	0
1927—1928	...	75,664	6	10	73,993	3	10

There has been no change in the method of raising revenue and the rates of taxation have not been altered. There is no loan.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

With the exception of the copra industry there is no “ agriculture ” in the Protectorate.

Fisheries.

Bêche de mer, trocas, and turtle shell are worked to a small extent. It cannot be claimed that the above-mentioned industries show any tendency towards increased production.

Forestry.

There is no “ forestry ” in the accepted sense in the Protectorate, although various kinds of softwoods are worked and some have been shipped to Australia. There are no indications, however, that the export industry will attain any magnitude. At Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz Group the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company (Proprietary), Limited, are engaged in the exploitation of kauri pine. The neighbouring island of Tevai, rich in kauri, is a Government reserve.

Exports.

A table showing the comparative amount of the annual exports of the principal commodities during the last five years is given opposite.

RETURN OF EXPORTS, 1923-24 TO 1927-28.

—	1923-24.		1924-25.		1925-26.		1926-27.		1927-28.	
	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £	Quantity.	Value. £
Bêche de Mer ...	3½ tons	310	15½ tons	1,896	16 tons	2,727	26½ tons	7,512	39 tons	7,470
Copra ...	18,278 tons	273,563	16,508 tons	287,702	19,206 tons	369,283	22,316 tons	411,597	21,957 tons	348,793
Black Lip Shell ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Green Snail Shell	1 ton	17	15 tons	216	33 tons	619	22 tons	364	56 tons	1,299
Mother Pearl Shell	—	—	¼ ton	88	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trocas Shell ...	205 tons	5,251	334 tons	11,153	377 tons	21,245	260 tons	14,200	299 tons	12,653
Turtle Shell ...	3 cwt.	285	2½ cwt.	191	1½ cwt.	198	3 cwt.	297	3 cwt.	327
Ivory Nuts ...	474 tons	5,371	1,568 tons	23,421	1,380 tons	16,144	893 tons	12,158	1,363 tons	13,579
Timber Logs ...	324,465 super.ft.	1,642	283,106 super.ft.	4,818	526,876 super.ft.	7,261	719,901 super.ft.	5,750	224,629 super.ft.	2,060
Miscellaneous ...	—	130	—	1,726	—	1,341	—	116	—	2,638
Total value ...		£286,569		£331,211		£418,818		£451,994		£388,819

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The State of Trade.

The value of imports has decreased by £24,528 and the value of exports by £63,175. Plantation development is almost at a standstill owing to scarcity of labour.

Character and Nature of Trade.

Australia supplies the greater portion of the total imports. The only regular steamship trading line with the Protectorate is from ports in the Commonwealth.

Trade with the United Kingdom decreased during the period under review by £8,855 and the decrease in respect of other parts of the Empire was £18,754. There would appear to be little prospect of any considerable increase in imports of British goods unless a preferential tariff were brought into force.

Most of the plantations import their requirements direct from Australia and there is practically no competition by local retailers.

A list of the principal imports, together with their country of origin, follows :—

<i>Commodity.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Country of origin.</i>
Kerosene	77,638 gallons	United States
Benzene	5,039 "	Persia
	94,450 "	United States
Tobacco	2,369 lb. Avoir.	Australia
	1,397 "	United Kingdom
	113,551 "	United States
Beer	29,259 gallons	Australia
	216 "	United Kingdom
	465 "	Germany
	£6,600	Australia
	£108	Belgium
Drapery	£984	China
	£38	France
	£152	Fiji
	£1,047	Japan
	£357	New Zealand
	£7,543	United Kingdom
	£555	United States
Rice	997 tons	Burma
	28 "	China
	535 "	India
	321,723 super. feet	Australia
Timber	131 "	Canada
	19,359 "	New Zealand
	108,523 "	United States
	£4,846	Australia
Hardware	£46	Germany
	£140	New Zealand
	£2,180	United Kingdom
	£437	United States
	387,006 lb.	Australia
Meats	140,935 "	New Zealand
	4,021 "	United States
Bags and Sacks	32,150 dozen	India

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Steam communication is maintained between Australia and the Protectorate by means of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers. The steamer calls direct from Australia every six weeks and, after proceeding through the Group, returns to Australia. Messrs. Burns Philp and Company receive an annual subsidy from the Commonwealth Government to which subsidy the Protectorate Government contributes the annual sum of £3,000. In return the Protectorate receives certain abatements in cost of Government passages and freights. Messrs. W. R. Carpenter and Co.'s s.s. *Inga* has latterly been making intermittent voyages to the Protectorate via New Guinea, calling at the ports of Tulagi and Vanikoro and returning to Australia. In addition, direct oversea shipments of copra are made in Norwegian and Swedish steamers.

Railways and Roads.

There are none in the Protectorate. There are coral paths in Tulagi and in most of the Districts paths and tracks, varying in quality, link up villages and plantations. Internal communication is maintained by the regular mail steamers and occasionally by auxiliary vessels owned by planters and traders. The Government vessel *Ranadi* is available for inter-island and inter-port communication, and also the s.s. *Malanta*, owned by Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the s.s. *Koonookarra*, owned by Lever's Pacific Plantations Pty., Ltd., and the motor-vessel *Duranbah*, owned by Messrs. W. R. Carpenter (Solomon Is.), Limited.

Postal.

The postal service of the Protectorate, outside the regular itinerary of Messrs. Burns Philp and Company's mail steamers, is carried out in an intermittent fashion through chance auxiliary craft owned by traders and recruiters. The chief postal centres are Tulagi, Gizo, Faisi, and Vanikoro. There is a Postmaster in Tulagi, and District Officers throughout the Protectorate act as Postmasters. A money order service exists with the Commonwealth Government of Australia, through whose agency money can be remitted to various parts of the world. There is also a postal note service.

During the year under review 19 mails were despatched oversea from Tulagi.

The following are statistics of postal matter handled :—

	<i>Inland.</i>	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Despatched.</i>
Prepaid letters	10,100	42,400	36,800
Unpaid letters	50	400	100
Post Cards	—	600	200
Printed matter	100	58,000	2,500
Commercial papers	3,000	400	600
Admitted free			
Totals	13,250	101,800	40,200
Registered articles (included in above totals).	500	2,000	1,500
Ordinary parcels	20	2,100	200

There is no submarine cable or telegraph system in the Protectorate. The Government wireless station maintains communication with the outer world. There are two privately-owned wireless stations in the group—one at Kokegelo (Roviana) in the Gizo District owned by the Methodist Mission, and the other at Vanikoro in the Santa Cruz District owned by the Vanikoro Kauri Timber Company. These two stations are sufficiently powerful to communicate with the outer world but, in accordance with the terms of their licences all their traffic is routed via Tulagi. A telephone system exists in Tulagi connecting up the various Government offices and certain private houses.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Chief Justice of Fiji, and every other judge for the time being of the Supreme Court of Fiji, is by virtue of his office a Judicial Commissioner. Deputy Commissioners are appointed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His Majesty. The High Commissioner's Court consists of the High Commissioner, the Judicial Commissioners and the Deputy Commissioners, and in it is vested all His Majesty's civil and criminal jurisdiction in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

The Court of a Judicial Commissioner has powers similar to those of the superior courts in England and the Deputy Commissioners have Civil Jurisdiction in Common Law, Equity, and Bankruptcy, with a limited jurisdiction in Probate, and have a criminal jurisdiction in respect of offenders not punishable with seven years penal servitude or upwards. With some exceptions all decisions of the High Commissioner's Court may be appealed against to the Supreme Court of Fiji.

In addition to other means of preserving order the High Commissioner has certain special powers for the deportation of persons whose proceedings endanger the peace of the Protectorate.

The Police and Prisons Department are administered by the Officer Commanding Armed Constabulary and Superintendent of Prisons. He is assisted by a European sub-Inspector of Constabulary and a European Gaoler. The native personnel of the

Armed Constabulary consists of a Sergeant-Major and 119 other ranks, and there are 22 native warders and one native wardress attached to the Gaol. There is in addition a special establishment of Armed Constabulary patrolling the Sinarango bush district of the island of Malaita, consisting of one European officer, 3 non-commissioned officers and 22 other ranks.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

During the year under review a new Government Station was provided for, and the quarters for an assistant District Officer were erected at Maka, on South Malaita. A Quarantine Station at Tulagi, some of the buildings of which have been erected on Double Island, has been established.

Other works were undertaken, but were of purely local interest.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year may be considered as satisfactory from a health point of view although hospital admissions were higher than for the previous year.

Europeans.

The climate is unfavourable for Europeans on account of its humidity and constant heat, and particularly on account of the prevalence of malaria. There were six European deaths during the year from the following causes:—pneumonia 2, dysentery 1, pulmonary tuberculosis 1, malaria 1, and accidental drowning 1.

Asiatics.

The health of the Asiatic population was good. There were no deaths among them.

Natives.

Measles was epidemic during the year among the native population. The disease was mild in character and is not reported to have caused any deaths. There was an outbreak of bacillary dysentery among the inmates of Tulagi Gaol which caused a number of deaths. The disease did not spread beyond the prisoners and warders.

No other epidemic disease occurred during the year. Yaws, hookworm, and malaria are the most prevalent diseases of the native population. Tuberculosis is common, and is one of the most frequent causes of death. Respiratory diseases, particularly pneumonia, are also a major cause of death among the natives.

General.

In January an intensive campaign for treatment of yaws and hookworm was commenced on Malaita, two treatment units being engaged there throughout the year. During the year 30,491

injections were given in respect of 11,405 natives treated for yaws, and 16,301 natives received treatment for hookworm. This campaign was carried on with the aid of the Rockefeller Foundation.

A similar campaign of mass treatment of these diseases was carried on by the travelling Medical Officer in the Eastern Solomons.

Sanitary work on Tulagi has been expanded during the year. A full-time sanitary inspector has been appointed, and a gang of ten labourers engaged for reclamation work. This is additional to the prison sanitary squad which is always engaged on sanitary work. Efforts have been mainly directed against the mosquito. Swamps are being drained or filled, streams channelled, and underbrush and grass kept down. Government Hospitals at Tulagi, Gizo, Su'u, and Vanikoro have supplied free medical treatment to natives. In those districts not provided with a medical officer, medicines have been supplied to missions and reputable planters for distribution among the natives.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Education is entirely in the hands of the various Mission bodies. For the financial year under review the sum of £150 was included in the estimates of expenditure for technical grants to Mission schools. The following grants were made in accordance with the amount of attention devoted to such education :—

South Sea Evangelical Mission	...	...	...	£50
Seventh Day Adventist Mission	...	...	...	£50
Methodist Mission	...	...	...	£50

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The survey work performed in the Protectorate to date has been for the most part isolated surveys of alienated blocks. Where these blocks are in reasonable close proximity they are linked up by coastal traverse. Since 1921 the Lands Department has concentrated on surveys in connection with the work of the late Lands Commission, but a number of surveys are still outstanding. Owing to the shortage of staff it has been found impossible to perform any land survey work during the year under review.

XI.—LABOUR.

The staple industry of the Protectorate is the cultivation of coconuts and their subsequent conversion into copra. The industry requires a high labour strength, about one unit to ten acres for estates of large size. On smaller estates the unit per acre figure is much higher. The entire labour supply is derived from indigenous natives, the bulk of whom are recruited from the island of Malaita. A native is eligible for employment as a labourer at the age of 16

years, and as a light labourer, performing certain definitely scheduled classes of work, at the age of fourteen years. A system of contract is in vogue, the maximum term allowed by law being two years. Minimum wages are fixed by law at 20s. per mensem and 10s. per mensem for labourers and light labourers respectively.

For the most part labourers are recruited at their homes by professional licensed recruiters who run licensed vessels.

The employer of a native labourer is required by law to feed, clothe, and house the labourer according to certain minimum scales, to provide him with medical attention, and repatriation to his home on the expiration of his term of contract. Should the labourer be accompanied by dependents, the employer is under similar liability towards them. The interests of the labourer are watched by the Native Labour Department and comprehensive Regulations control the actions of employers and employees alike.

The hours of work which a labourer may be called upon to perform are controlled by definite sections in the Labour Regulations and a system of "task work" is in vogue, 5½ tasks completing one week's work.

On time-work the labourer may be called upon to work nine hours per diem and on task work the task is such that it can be completed in six hours.

The average number of labourers employed throughout the group is approximately 6,000 distributed among 227 employers.

J. C. BARLEY,

*Acting Resident Commissioner,
British Solomon Islands Protectorate.*

10th May, 1929.

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REPORT FOR 1928.

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GRENADA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
GEOGRAPHICAL	2
HISTORICAL	3
CLIMATE	3
LANGUAGE	4
CURRENCY	4
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	4
I. GENERAL	4
II. FINANCE	6
III. PRODUCTION	7
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS... ..	9
V. COMMUNICATIONS	11
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	12
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	12
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH... ..	13
IX. EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS	13
X. LAND AND SURVEY	14
XI. LABOUR	14
XII. LEGISLATION	15
XIII. MISCELLANEOUS... ..	15
MAP.	

Introduction.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

Situated in the extreme south of the Caribbean Sea, Grenada is the nearest British Island to the mainland of South America with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago. It lies 90 miles north of Trinidad and between the parallels of $12^{\circ} 30'$, and $11^{\circ} 58'$, North latitude and $61^{\circ} 20'$, and $61^{\circ} 35'$, West longitude. The island is about 21 miles in length and about 12 miles in its greatest breadth. Its area is about 120 square miles, but, including Carriacou, an island to the north, the area of the Colony of Grenada is 133 square miles.

Grenada is mountainous and well watered by streams. Its coastline is rugged, especially on the western coast, and towards the south is deeply indented with bays. St. George's Harbour, land-locked and deep watered, is one of the most beautiful in the West Indies.

The mountain spurs, clothed with forests to their summits, intersect the island into numerous picturesque valleys. There are two small lakes, formed in extinct craters, one called the Grand Etang being situated near the centre of the Island 1,740 feet above sea-level, while the other, Lake Antoine, is near the sea on the eastern coast. A Sanatorium is established near the former.

HISTORICAL.

Grenada was discovered by Columbus on 15th August, 1498, but for more than 100 years after its discovery the Island was left in the undisturbed possession of the aboriginal inhabitants who were of the Carib race. Early in the seventeenth century both English and French adventurers made efforts at occupation of the Island, and after being owned by French proprietors for some years it was annexed to France in 1674. In 1763 the Island was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris, but was recaptured by the French in 1779 and held by them for the next four years. In 1783 by the Treaty of Versailles, Grenada and the Grenadines were finally restored to Great Britain.

In 1795-96, influenced by the French Republic, a rebellion broke out, and the Lieutenant-Governor and 48 other British subjects were massacred by the rebels. The rising was suppressed in June, 1796, by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and the ringleaders executed.

The later history of the Colony has been peaceful and uneventful, and Grenada has reached a high state of development.

CLIMATE.

The climate from December to end of April may be described as good, as during that period the heat is tempered by the prevailing trade winds. In the autumn from July to end of October, there is great humidity and extreme heat, with little variation between night and day. During this period the climate may be described as debilitating to Europeans although not really unhealthy. When the electric lighting scheme which is being installed in St. George's is completed, the introduction of fans in houses and offices will improve conditions in that town and adjacent area. The highest temperature in 1928 was 90 degrees on several occasions from July to November, and the lowest 60 degrees on 8th August. The mean of maximum temperatures was 89 degrees and the mean of minimum 70 degrees. The rainfall varies according to altitude. In the lowlands of the south the annual amount is as low as 30 inches. In the mountainous centre it approaches 140 inches. At St. George's, midway between the two the rainfall in 1928 was 63.90 inches. Over the past 30 years the average at St. George's has been 72.20 inches.

LANGUAGE.

The only language spoken is English. A small and decreasing number of agricultural labourers in the country districts speak a corrupt patois of English and French, but all understand and speak English.

CURRENCY.

The currency is the same as in Great Britain, the monetary units being the same. Silver, however, is legal tender without limit, and there are also in circulation bank notes of Barclays Bank and the Royal Bank of Canada of five dollars denomination. One or two of the business houses keep their accounts in dollars and cents, but the Government accounts are in sterling.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Weights and measures are of the Imperial standard. An exception to this has arisen recently in connection with motor spirit, which is sold by the wine or American gallon.

I.—General.

The financial and commercial position of the Colony has maintained a satisfactory level, after several years of steadily improving conditions. In his Address to the Legislative Council on the presentation of the Budget in December, His Excellency the Governor stated that there were "indications that the increase in the market prices of two of the principal products of the Colony, nutmegs and mace, may possibly be regarded as now being stable." These prices, as compared with those existing immediately before the outbreak of war in 1914, show an extraordinary rise, the range being from 35s. to 89s. per cwt. in the case of nutmegs and from 152s. to 311s. per cwt. as regards mace. As in both cases the volume of the crops has increased since 1913 by more than 40 per cent., the combined result has been a widespread improvement in the financial resources of the people and the Government. Numerous new buildings have been erected by private persons, while a large programme of public works has been carried out by the Government without encroaching on reserves, which are now much higher in amount than ever before, the total surplus assets, including an Invested Reserve of £50,000, being £113,159.

The various activities to which His Excellency referred in his previous year's Address made considerable progress during the year. The Central Water Authority was established and took over the control of the water supplies of the Colony as from the end of 1928. The Grenville Covered Market was practically completed, and will be formally opened this year. Its construction has greatly improved the town of Grenville, by the clearing of surrounding ground and opening of new roads.

The Queen's Park Bridge, the construction of which was begun towards the end of 1927, was completed during 1928, and was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor in January of the present year.

The corner stone of the Queen's Park Pavilion was laid by His Excellency shortly before his departure to England on leave, and the building was sufficiently advanced to allow of its utilisation at the Race Meeting in November. Work in connection with the installation of electric light in St. George's and reconstruction of the telephone system, which commenced early in 1928, is being continued and expected to reach completion this year.

The Committee appointed to advise regarding the manner in which Government grants-in-aid of primary education should be adjusted, in order to obtain more satisfactory results from the expenditure, submitted its report, which is now being considered by the Board of Education. The teaching staff of the Grenada Boys' Secondary School was strengthened by the appointment of a Science Master and a Mathematical Master, who took up their duties in January of this year. The enlargement of the school premises and the setting up of a Manual Training Centre will, as His Excellency announced, engage attention this year.

Amongst other events of the year were the revival of the Volunteer Force, with a proposed total composition of 1 Company of 5 Officers, and 82 other ranks, and of the St. George's Rifle Club with a membership of 50.

Resulting from a visit of His Excellency the Governor to the Grenadines early in the year, provision has been made in this year's Estimates for improvement of water supplies, and for increased visits of officers of the Medical Service to these Islands. Communication between Grenada and the Grenadines and St. Vincent is also to be improved by the purchase or construction of an auxiliary sailing vessel.

Among the visitors to the Colony during the year mention should be made of the Inspector-General of the West Indian Local Forces in August in connection with the establishment of the Volunteer Force, and of Professor Clark Powell who paid a visit towards the end of July on behalf of the Empire Marketing Board for the purpose of enquiring into the Grape Fruit Industry. His Excellency Sir F. S. James, K.B.E., C.M.G., was on leave in England from 5th July to 8th November, the Government of the Windward Islands being undertaken in his absence by Mr. Robert Walter, C.M.G., Administrator of St. Vincent, until 4th August when he went on leave, and thereafter by Mr. Herbert Ferguson, C.B.E., Colonial Secretary of Grenada.

II.—Finance.**REVENUE.**

The total revenue for the year amounted to £153,870.

The following table shows the total revenue during the past five years, with separate particulars of direct and indirect taxation :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Import Duties.</i>	<i>Export duties, Income Tax and other direct taxation.</i>	<i>Other Sources.</i>
	£	£	£
1924	50,116	47,206	20,131
1925	67,342	59,454	19,422
1926	62,471	64,704	21,271
1927	68,523	66,473	20,512
1928	71,434	61,905	20,531

EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure for the year was £131,244, being less than the revenue by £22,626.

The following table gives a comparison of revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>
	£	£	£
1924	117,453	106,003	11,450
1925	146,218	112,467	33,751
1926	148,447	119,001	29,446
1927	155,508	131,413	24,095
1928	153,870	131,244	22,626

No change took place during the year in the method of raising revenue.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The excess of Assets over Liabilities at 31st December, 1928, was £113,159, comprising the following :—

	£
Invested Reserve Fund	50,000
Loans to District Boards... ..	16,071
Stores and Materials for Public Works Electricity Department and Colony Drug Store.	5,802
Land Settlement Advances	470
Other assets in liquid or readily available form	40,816
	£113,159

PUBLIC LOANS.

The net indebtedness of the Colony under public loans, after deduction of the amounts represented by sinking funds and repayments, at the end of 1928 was £164,361.

The particulars of the loans are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Inscribed Stock (Colony's share)	113,489	0	9
Inscribed Stock (District Board's share) ...	10,180	19	3
	£123,670	0	0
Sundry Debenture Holders, Local Loan Ordinance, 1917.	82,060	0	0
	£205,730	0	0
Stockholders for Electric Lighting and Telephone Reconstruction Loan.	40,712	9	4
Loan for Construction of St. Andrew's New Market.	6,366	0	11
	£252,808	10	3
Sinking Funds accumulated towards redemption.	88,447	2	9
Net Indebtedness	£164,361	7	6

III.—Production.

AGRICULTURE.

Cocoa.—This is the principal cultivation in the Island, and accounts for nearly 62 per cent, of the exports.

The quantity and value of the cocoa crops exported during the past five years are shown in the following table :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	cwt.	£
1924	85,394	201,547
1925	73,216	197,231
1926	83,384	223,290
1927	100,478	305,640
1928	91,444	274,461

Nutmegs.—The area under this cultivation is being steadily extended, and an increase in production should occur when the

young trees reach bearing stage. Crops and exports for the past five years have been as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						<i>cwt.</i>	£
1924	...	...	...	...	...	19,369	95,321
1925	...	...	...	...	...	21,762	145,861
1926	...	...	...	...	...	22,702	127,000
1927	...	...	...	...	...	21,238	103,444
1928	...	...	...	...	...	19,620	87,965

Mace.—This is a derivative of the nutmeg, being a lace-like covering of the kernel. It commands a high price. The quantities produced and exported in the past five years were as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						<i>cwt.</i>	£
1924	...	...	...	...	...	2,234	24,874
1925	...	...	...	...	...	3,843	39,606
1926	...	...	...	...	...	3,679	49,490
1927	...	...	...	...	...	3,733	59,145
1928	...	...	...	...	...	3,141	49,260

Cotton.—The cultivation of cotton is practically confined to the island of Carriacou. The type grown is Marie Galante, similar to the American (Middling Upland), and commanding a somewhat similar price in the Liverpool market. The following table gives the exports during the past five years :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
						<i>cwt.</i>	£
1924	...	...	...	...	...	2,842	15,180
1925	...	...	...	...	...	3,252	16,500
1926	...	...	...	...	...	3,159	14,040
1927	...	...	...	...	...	3,788	15,890
1928	...	...	...	...	...	2,568	10,735

There was a decrease in volume of all the principal crops of the Colony, the main cause being unfavourable weather conditions.

Various subsidiary crops are grown, principally sugar and limes. The quantity produced of the former does not come up to the quantity locally consumed, and importations of raw sugar amounted in 1928 to 1,324,107 lb., of the value of £10,123. The value of lime products exported in 1928 was £5,710. Grape fruit is being planted and will probably prove a successful subsidiary industry, although it has to be remembered that the remaining fertile land not already under profitable cultivation is limited, and development of new cultivations to any great extent could only be at the expense of uprooting other permanent crops.

Rum is manufactured at thirteen sugar estates, but none is exported, the production being barely equal to the consumption demand. The quantity made last year was 57,212.3 proof gallons.

Ice is manufactured at a factory in St. George's, aided by a subsidy from the Government.

FORESTRY.

A Forestry Board is constituted under an Ordinance, and looks after the preservation of rainfall by protecting mountain ridges from being denuded. There is power under the Forestry Ordinance to declare Rain Reserves, the owners of the mountainous areas so dealt with being compensated by remission of land tax. A Forest Reserve of 2,485 acres is established on Crown Lands at Grand Etang near the centre of the Island. The area is too small and too inaccessible for growing timber at a profit.

MINING.

There are no mines of any kind.

FISHERIES.

There is no established fishing industry, but supplies of fresh fish are constant, as there are several good fishing grounds near the coast. The fishermen do not venture far from land, and pursue their occupation in small canoes and shallow boats.

The whaling industry at Glovers Island is now finally abandoned, and the factory which was established there is dismantled. The number of whales caught in 1925, when the factory was first started, was 105, the number in 1926 dropping to 72. All the whales except two were of the Humpback species (*Megaptera nodosa*). The other two were the Bryde Whale, a type not usually seen in these waters. The Bryde is supposed to be a mule whale, but in one of the two caught there was evidence of the foetus stage of its young.

Although whales are still occasionally seen, the numbers are not considered sufficient to enable a whaling industry on modern lines, entailing a certain indispensable minimum cost, to be profitably undertaken.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

The total value of import and export trade amounted to £874,545, imports representing £429,279 and exports £445,266, leaving an apparent favourable trade balance of £15,987.

The principal articles imported in the last three years were as follows :—

Imports.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>1928.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1926.</i>
	£	£	£
Flour	46,069	46,273	47,582
Cotton piece-goods	29,091	32,071	39,794
Wood, etc.—unmanufactured	18,883	8,881	22,739
Fish—dried	17,944	14,915	13,904
Sugar—unrefined	10,123	14,280	9,251
Rice	11,731	12,314	10,386
Boots and shoes	10,083	10,112	7,850
Motor-cars	10,775	10,086	14,439
Motor parts	8,635	7,347	—
Motor spirit	9,842	9,203	8,205
Kerosene oil	7,731	7,873	7,007
Manures	6,582	8,559	4,004
Biscuits, bread, &c.	5,725	6,547	5,774

The decrease in importation of cotton piece-goods is on account of merchants anticipating less demand than in previous years, while building activity in the Colony accounts for the increase in importation of unmanufactured wood.

The principal exports during the last three years were as under :—

Exports.

	<i>1928.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1926.</i>
	£	£	£
Cocoa	274,561	305,640	223,290
Spices, nutmegs	87,965	103,444	127,000
Do. Mace	49,260	59,145	49,490
Cotton, raw	10,735	15,890	14,040
Cotton seed	1,850	2,960	2,646

The sources of supply of imports and destination of exports in 1928 may be seen from the following table :—

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Percentage of total.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Percentage of total.</i>
United Kingdom	163,185	37·9	194,442	43·7
United States of America	72,151	16·9	190,987	42·9
Canada	95,603	22·3	43,568	9·7
Other British Possessions	69,299	16·1	14,386	3·3
Other Foreign Countries	29,041	6·8	1,883	0·4

In the previous year the percentage of imports from the United Kingdom was 35.1 and exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 38.8 per cent.

V.—Communications.**(i) BY SEA.**

A fortnightly mail passenger and cargo service with Canada was established last year by the Canadian National Steamships Company, the service being undertaken by modern oil-burning vessels with excellent passenger accommodation and equipped with cold storage. The steamers start from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and land passengers on the return journey at St. John, New Brunswick, proceeding afterwards to Halifax to load for the voyage south.

Steamers of the Furness Withy Line supply a direct passenger and cargo service between Grenada and New York, calling at intervals of about ten to fourteen days. The voyage occupies seven days.

There is a regular direct monthly service to London by the passenger steamers of the Harrison Line, while frequent calls are made by cargo steamers of this Company, especially during the crop season from December to May.

The steamers of the Ocean Dominion Line from Canadian ports call at intervals of about a fortnight.

Numerous sailing vessels ply between Grenada and Trinidad and Barbados, and other neighbouring islands.

The Government is arranging for an auxiliary sailing vessel for communication with the Grenadines and St. Vincent, and occasionally with St. Lucia.

(ii) BY CABLE AND WIRELESS.

The cable line of the West India and Panama Telegraph Company connects Grenada with the outside world.

A wireless station operated by the Pacific Cable Board, under a subsidy from the Government, is established in St. George's, and communicates direct with Barbados.

A subsidiary wireless station is installed at Carriacou, and communicates with Grenada.

(iii) BY LAND.

There is no inland telegraph service.

A telephone service—at present under reconstruction without interruption of business—has been established by Government for many years. There are six exchanges, and 959 miles of subscribers' lines. The number of subscribers last year was 732.

The island is well supplied by a good system of main roads and by-ways, kept in good repair by six motor road rollers. All the main roads and practically all the by-ways are suitable for motor traffic. The mileage of main roads is 115, and of by-ways, 274.

VI.—Justice, Police, and Prisons.**(i) JUSTICE.**

The criminal statistics of this Colony vary but little from year to year. Thus in the year under review the number of persons dealt with in the Summary Courts was 2,520, as compared with an average of 2,572 for the three preceding years.

Out of this total of 2,520, the number of summary convictions was 1,740 and that of convictions in the Supreme Court 23, as compared with an average during the three preceding years of 1,837 summary convictions and 18 convictions on indictment.

There was a slight decrease of convictions for praedial larceny, the number being 143 as against 146 in 1927, 190 in 1926, and 259 in 1925.

Two cases of homicide occurred during the year and were sent on for trial in the Supreme Court. Of these, one was convicted of manslaughter and the other remains to be tried at the next sitting of the Court. Two cases of rape occurred, but there was no case of offence against property with violence to the person.

(ii) POLICE.

The strength of the police force on 31st December, 1928, was 1 Officer-in-Command, 1 Inspector, and 88 non-commissioned officers and men. Rural Constables to the number of 208, employed on special occasions, were also on the roll.

In addition to the ordinary police duties, the Police Department assists in the protection of revenue, administration of poor relief, inspection of shops and weights and measures, while a Fire Brigade and Government Band are under its management and control.

(iii) PRISONS.

A prison for males, with an adjacent separate building for females, is situated near Richmond Hill, St. George's.

During the year 90 persons were committed to the male prison, and 26 to the female prison, the daily average of inmates for the two prisons being 26.3 and 4.3 respectively.

No death occurred among the prisoners, and the health of the prisoners was satisfactory.

VII.—Public Works.

Among the principal public works undertaken during the year were the construction of a pavilion, including a grand stand at Queen's Park, completion of the bridge over the river near the park entrance, two bungalow residences for officials in St. George's, a house for the Chief Warder of the Prison, and continuation of work in connection with installation of electric light.

In addition to the foregoing, further extensions of water supplies were carried out, a small bridge was erected over Mt. Cassell River, several miles of main roads were oiled, and the work of improving Queen's Park was continued.

VIII.—Public Health.

The birth rate for the year was 33.33 per 1,000, and the death rate 16.5 per 1,000.

The infantile death rate per 100 of infants dying under one year was 11.0.

There was no serious outbreak of any disease during the year. The principal cause of death was diarrhoea and enteritis which accounted for 263 deaths, the next main cause being malaria from which 110 deaths were recorded.

A malaria survey by the International Health Board is being arranged for in 1929.

The estimated population at the end of 1928 was 75,214.

There is a Central Hospital with 141 beds in St. George's, and smaller hospitals of 24 beds each in Carriacou and St. Andrew's. In addition there are 14 District Visiting Stations, under the charge of District Nurses who are qualified as midwives.

A Maternity Welfare Centre is established in St. George's and continues to do most excellent work. A clinic for children is regularly held by the Resident Surgeon of the Colony Hospital or one of the District Medical Officers. A trained nurse midwife, employed by the League, visits mothers and advises as to the care and management of children, and in necessitous cases a regular supply of milk is provided.

The adult death rate of Grenada is low, and the climate in general is healthy. Recreations include cricket, tennis, golf, football, bathing, fishing, and motoring.

IX.—Educational Progress.

Educational matters are looked after by the Boards of Primary and Secondary Education, under the Presidency of the Director of Education, Mr. B. H. Easter, M.A.

SECONDARY.

There is a Government Secondary School for Boys, at which the attendance averages about 100.

Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of additional buildings which will enable a much needed extension to be carried out. The staff has recently been reorganised and provision made for the teaching of science (Agricultural Science).

Three secondary schools for girls receive a grant-in-aid from the Government. The numbers on the rolls range from 80 to 100.

In examinations, one candidate sat for the London Intermediate Arts and passed in all his subjects except Pure Mathematics, in which he was referred. Five candidates sat for the London Matriculation of whom three passed in the second division. For the Cambridge School Certificate (Senior) there were seven candidates of whom five passed. Four of the entries were from the girls' schools, with three passes.

PRIMARY.

The number of recognised primary schools remained the same, namely 58.

The number of pupils on the roll in 1928 was 12,920, the average attendance being 8,128, or 62.9 per cent.

The total expenditure by the Government was £9,325.

X.—Land and Survey.

Land in possession of the Crown is of small area, and consists principally of mountain ridges in forest for preservation of the rainfall. Notwithstanding this, a Land Settlement Scheme was initiated by the Government upwards of twenty-five years ago, the main features of the scheme being the acquisition of properties offered for sale, which were then divided into small lots and re-sold to peasants on favourable terms spread over a number of years.

The success of the scheme may be noted from the following table showing the number of holdings of land according to the Tax Rolls for the year 1928.

<i>Total</i>	<i>2½ acres</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Over</i>	<i>Over 10</i>	<i>Over</i>	
<i>acreage.</i>	<i>and under.</i>	<i>2½ to 5</i>	<i>5 to 7</i>	<i>7 to 10</i>	<i>and under</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>Total.</i>
		<i>acres.</i>	<i>acres.</i>	<i>acres.</i>	<i>100 acres.</i>	<i>acres.</i>	
75,763	13,632	1,777	332	204	394	142	16,481

The number of large estates is comparatively small, and no lands are available for settlement on a large scale.

XI.—Labour.

Labour consists chiefly of employment on the estates—in working or ploughing the land, draining, weeding, cutlassing, pruning, manuring, and other land work, and reaping the produce. The labourers are employed in gangs, with drivers and overseers in personal charge and supervision. A number of labourers are also employed on the public roads of the Colony, on general repair and surface oiling work.

The rates of pay are approximately as follows :—

£3 to £8 per month for overseers.

2s. to 4s. per day for drivers.

1s. to 2s. per day for labourers.

The daily rates quoted above are usually for "task" work, which may be completed by quick workers in from 3 to 4 hours. Labourers seldom work two tasks in a day, preferring to cultivate their garden lots, which are generally given by estate proprietors to those who own no lands of their own.

Other labour includes masons, carpenters, mechanics, bootmakers, and chauffeurs, the work generally not being of a high standard. The pay of these would be approximately as follows :—Masons, carpenters and mechanics, 2*s.* to 7*s.* per day ; Chauffeurs £3 to £5 per month.

XII.—Legislation.

Of the twenty-six Ordinances passed during the year the principal were the following :—

No. 4. Wild Animals and Birds (Sanctuary) Ordinance, establishing the Grand Etang Forest Reserve as a sanctuary for wild animals and birds, and affording special protection elsewhere for three years for the armadillo and agouti ;

No. 12. Providing for the establishment of a Central Water Authority ;

No. 20. Quarantine Amendment Ordinance, to give effect to new Quarantine Regulations of the Central Quarantine Authority for the West Indies ;

No. 22. The Lepers Ordinance providing for admissions to and control of a Leper Asylum.

XIII.—Miscellaneous.

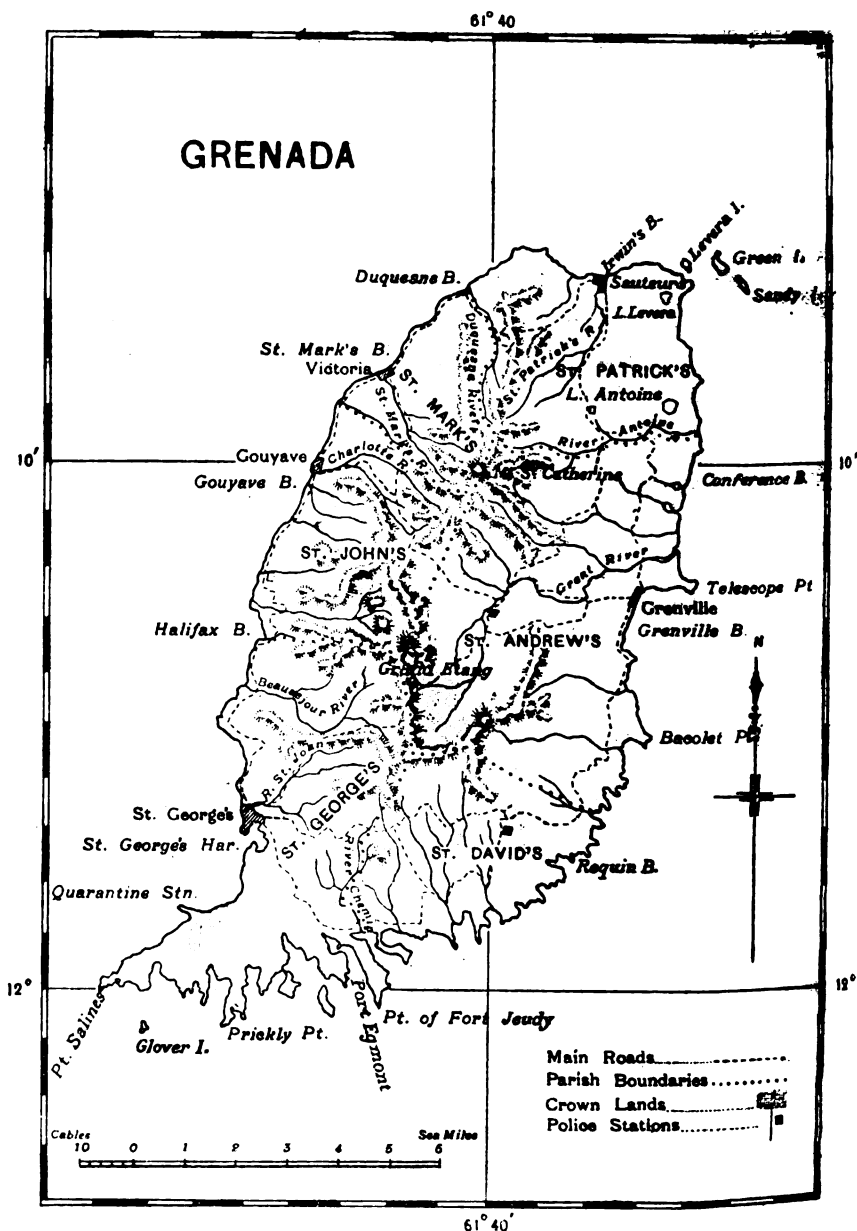
The organisation of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides has made great headway during the past few years. The troops of Scouts have increased in number from 1 to 7 and the number of Companies of Girl Guides (a new organisation in the Colony) is 9.

H. FERGUSON,

Colonial Secretary.

GRENADA,

25th May, 1929.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report.

[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.] 4s. 0d. (4s. 6d.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2893.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.

Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9d.).

COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3261.] 9d. (10d.).

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND IN THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH COLONIAL QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER, 1924, TO NOVEMBER, 1928

[Cmd. 3268.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

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REPORT FOR 1928.

*(For Reports for 1926 and 1927 see Nos. 1347 and 1399 respectively
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- Oranges. World Production and Trade, Memorandum prepared
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- Development of Agriculture in British Honduras. May, 1929.
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
History and Geography	3.
I. General	4.
II. Finance	5.
III. Production	6.
IV. Trade and Economics	7.
V. Communications	8.
VI. Justice, Police, and Prisons	9.
VII. Public Works	10.
VIII. Public Health	11.
IX. Education	11.
X. Lands and Survey	12.
XI. Miscellaneous	12.
Appendix I.—Principal Firms, etc.	14.
Appendix II.—List of Barristers, Solicitors and Patent Agents	14.

THE GAMBIA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT, 1928.

History and Geography.

The first descriptive account of the Gambia dates from the middle of the 15th century, when Alvise Cada Mosto, a Venetian, visited the River in charge of an expedition fitted out by Prince Henry of Portugal. He appears to have travelled some forty miles from the mouth in 1456. The Portuguese were able to maintain a monopoly of the trade for more than a century; an English expedition, fitted out in 1481, was prevented from sailing by the influence of King John II of Portugal. In 1588 a Patent from Queen Elizabeth gave certain merchants of Devon and London a monopoly for ten years of the "free and whole trafique trade and feat of merchandise" to and within the Senegal and Gambia rivers. It was stated in the Patent that one voyage had already been performed. The second voyage under the Charter, which was made in 1591, is described in Hakluyt. The French had then traded in these parts for above 30 years, but the "Frenchmen never used to go into the river of Gambia, which is a river of secret trade and riches concealed by the Portugals".

The annexation of Portugal to Spain under Philip II in 1580 caused the decline of Portuguese maritime enterprise, and early in the 17th century the English established themselves in the Gambia and the French in Senegal to the north. For the following two centuries these countries contended with varying fortunes for the mastery of the two rivers, the coast ports between, and the trade of the hinterland.

In the 18th century the Royal African Company controlled the commerce of the Gambia, and made large profits on their cargoes of slaves and gold and ivory and beeswax.

Chartered Company administration was, however, ruined by the Act of 1807, which abolished the slave trade, and although an annual subsidy of £23,000 was paid to the Company, it was unable to make a profit and its assets were taken over by the Crown.

Since 1816 the seat of Government has been at Bathurst, which was founded by the English merchants who left Senegal and the Island of Goree when those territories were restored to France after the Napoleonic wars. It was named after the then Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Colony, which comprises the towns of Bathurst and Georgetown and some adjoining land, has an area of only 69 square miles.

The Protectorate is a narrow strip of territory ten kilometres wide on each bank extending up the river for 250 miles from Bathurst. The Gambia River has its source near the village of Labe on the Futa Jallon plateau. It flows westward for about 700 miles. The river is navigable for ocean-going steamers as far as Kuntaur, 150 miles up river, and for vessels drawing less than two fathoms as far as Koina—292 miles from Bathurst—the easternmost village in the Protectorate, where there is a rise of two feet daily with the tide. During the rains the upper river rises some thirty feet. This year when the floods were again exceptionally heavy the buildings at Basse, the largest market in the Protectorate in the dry season, were several feet under water.

The inhabitants of the Protectorate are mostly Jollofs, Mandingos, Fulas, and Jolas, nearly all of whom are Mahomedans except the last named tribe who are pagan though the Mahomedan religion is gaining ground amongst them and as a result they are gradually dropping their primitive customs.

The currency is British West African silver and alloy coinage and paper. Since the French five-franc pieces were demonetised, little silver has been seen in the Protectorate. There was in circulation during the year about £360,000 worth of alloy coinage, and notes to the value of £191,000. The monetary units and the standards of weights and measures are British, but the people are equally conversant with the metric system owing to their close contact with the neighbouring Colonies.

I.—General.

On the 10th of January, the death of Sir George Denton, K.C.M.G., occurred. He was Governor of the Gambia from 1900 to 1911. The valuable work he did for the advancement of the Colony and Protectorate is gratefully remembered.

In April, the Governor proceeded to Dakar to present the Insignia of an Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on behalf of His Majesty to the Governor General of French West Africa. The occasion was marked by great cordiality and the most splendid hospitality.

Shortly after, Sir John Middleton, K.B.E., C.M.G., left the Colony having been appointed Governor of the Dominion of Newfoundland. He was succeeded by Sir Edward Denham, K.B.E., C.M.G., who assumed the administration and arrived with Lady Denham on the 29th of November.

Dr. Hopkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., Senior Travelling Commissioner North Bank Province, was appointed under Additional Instructions respecting the Constitution of Legislative Council a member of that body, and also of Executive Council.

II.—Finance.

The revenue and expenditure for the last five years has been :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Loan.	Surplus of Assets over Loan and Liabilities.
	£	£	£	£
1924	208,613	203,635	125,893	175,036
1925	189,086	271,836	113,743	104,436
1926	214,181	213,643	103,601	115,116
1927	252,419	277,625	84,171	109,340
1928	255,385	250,596	62,541	135,759

The expenditure in 1925 included £32,546 for the writing off of the rice and seed nut debts of the Protectorate.

The expenditure in 1927 included the sum of £50,000 which was set aside for the establishment of a Reserve Fund.

The liability to the West African Currency Board incurred in 1922 for demonetization of the five-franc piece was reduced during the year by £21,630.

Customs receipts, which represented 69 per cent of the total revenue of the Colony, brought in £177,368 as against £172,887 the year before.

A comparison of the four chief items of duty during the last five years shows increase in revenue from Groundnuts and *ad valorem* duty, but a decrease during 1928 on Kolas and Tobacco.

Year.	Export Duty. Groundnuts.	Import Duty. Kolas.	Ad valorem Duties.	Tobacco.
	£	£	£	£
1924	57,572	29,231	18,867	11,172
1925	46,124	23,016	16,821	10,748
1926	56,966	32,925	23,348	11,855
1927	64,342	44,795	26,797	17,347
1928	73,809	31,210	33,705	12,846

The cost price of investments held at the close of 1928 was £253,912. The Securities Depreciation Fund stood at £13,903 while the actual depreciation on Surplus Funds investments was only £4,024.

The finances of the Colony are in a sound condition. The revenue in 1928 covered all expenditure and gave a surplus of £4,789 after meeting the cost of Public Works Extraordinary without drawing on the Surplus Funds of the Colony, which amounted on December 31st to £161,387 while there is also a Reserve Fund of £53,267.

III.—Production.

The total value of exports was £1,156,009. Except for Palm Kernels and Hides representing together only £18,139, the sole export of the Gambia is Groundnuts on which an export duty of £1 a ton is levied.

The tonnage and value of the crop for the last five years has been as follows:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
		£
1924	60,622	861,925
1925	48,700	693,097
1926	61,072	862,578
1927	69,240	967,941
1928	76,772	1,122,253

The main percentage distribution of the Groundnut export trade during these years has been:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>British.</i>	<i>French.</i>	<i>German.</i>	<i>Dutch.</i>
1924	54	34	3	5
1925	45	36	5	7
1926	39	28	16	13
1927	6	44	20	20
1928	33	33	20	6

The Agricultural Department distributed 17,041 bags of seed to the native farmers. The cost of this distribution is repaid after the crop is gathered and no bad debts either in regard to Groundnuts or Rice have been made since the Government wrote off the liabilities of the farmers in the Protectorate four years ago.

The price of nuts at the beginning of the 1927—28 season was 2s. 6d. to 3s. a bushel or even a little higher towards the end of the season. Nuts were abundant though generally light and of indifferent quality owing to the heavy rainfall.

Increased areas have been devoted to the growing of food stuffs, but no alternative to the staple crop, on which the prosperity of the Colony depends, has as yet been introduced. Guinea corn suffered severely in many localities from Leo disease due to the ravages of Aphid Sorgi. Millet and maize gave good yields and rice, though extensively cultivated, is not produced in sufficient quantity to satisfy local requirements.

Several outbreaks of cattle disease occurred during the year, some 2,300 head being lost in Kombo and over 4,000 in the South Bank Province. At present there is some doubt as to whether the disease is rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia and until the arrival of the veterinary expert, who is expected in the new year, segregation of the infected animals and careful restriction of travelling cattle continue to be the only preventives.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

The following table shows the balance of trade (exclusive of Specie) during the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Aggregate.</i>	<i>Imports.</i> (<i>c.i.f.</i>)	<i>Exports.</i> (<i>f.o.b.</i>)	<i>Balance of</i> <i>Exports over</i> <i>Imports in £.</i>
	£	£	£	£
1924	1,563,059	669,700	893,359	223,659
1925	1,388,548	615,927	722,621	106,694
1926	1,555,303	651,137	904,166	253,029
1927	1,862,376	863,376	999,000	135,624
1928	2,166,695	1,010,686	1,156,009	145,323

The largest increases of imports were in Cotton Piece Goods and Rice. The former with 7,122,355 square yards showed an increase of £47,768 over 1927, and the latter with 11,440 tons showed an increase of £32,482 over 1927.

On the other hand, Kola nuts and Tobacco were consumed in less quantities than in 1927, the decrease in value of these two semi-luxuries, as compared with the previous years, being £9,272 and £4,496, respectively. Great Britain supplied most of the following goods :—Apparel, bags and sacks, coal and cement, cottons, lumber, medicine and drugs, oils edible, tobacco and potable spirits. Biscuits, boots, shoes and slippers, hats and caps, rice, soap, sugar, tea and wines were obtained chiefly from France.

The United States of America furnished the greatest value of flour, oil not edible, and motor cars. There is still a preference for vehicles of American production and importations have been of the Ford, Chevrolet and Brockway types.

The percentage of imports for the last five years have been :—

—	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
British Empire	64.97	54.65	60.10	51.71	48.22
France	12.89	26.61	24.63	30.65	34.08
Germany	6.91	7.57	2.54	5.58	5.19
United States of America	5.23	4.66	4.12	5.38	5.60

From the records for the past twenty-five years it appears that the year 1928 is the first in which the British Empire has provided less than 50 per cent of the total imports of the Colony.

The following is the percentage of revenue to trade during the last five years.

—	1924	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
—	% 13.34	% 14.12	% 14.77	% 13.55	% 11.78

V.—Communications.

582 ships of 1,292,397 tons entered and cleared in 1928 as compared with 569 ships of 1,287,081 tons in 1927. 64 per cent were British and 12 per cent French. German, Italian, American, Dutch and Norwegian steamers, though representing only about 20 per cent of the tonnage of the port, bring more than half the imports and carry practically all the exports of the Gambia.

Fifty-nine ships were chartered to remove the Colony's exports of which fifty-eight were foreign.

Until the heavy shipping and port charges at home are reduced, it will be impossible for British ships to compete successfully with their rivals in the carrying trade of this Colony. On general first class cargo from Liverpool, the freights are as high as £3 a ton, from London 50/- a ton, whilst the French ships carry their cargoes from Marseilles and Bordeaux at about £1 a ton plus 2s. 6d. light dues and handling charges.

His Majesty's Ships "Calcutta" and "Daffodil" and also the cable steamer "Transmitter" called at Bathurst during the year, and Monsieur Jean Lebaudy from Paris in his yacht the "P. Herousa" and Mr. Wearne of Singapore in his yacht "Black Swan" sailed up the Gambia.

In April, the flying boat "Singapore" with Sir Alan and Lady Cobham on board touched here and received a hearty reception.

A French aeroplane belonging to the Compagnie Generale Aéropostale made a forced landing in the North Bank Province and was subsequently conveyed to Dakar by road.

The Government river service has been maintained without interruption during the year by the steamers "Prince of Wales" and "Vampire", the latter to be superseded in 1929 by a new vessel of slightly smaller dimensions than the "Prince of Wales", now building at Dartmouth.

A weekly schedule was maintained from November to May, and fortnightly from June to October. The "Prince of Wales" had a total mileage of 12,745 and the "Vampire" of 9,886.

In addition to general transport work, the "Prince of Wales" carries out monthly inspections of the buoys in the estuary and on Bijol Island. She was also instrumental in assisting the S.S. "Antinea" to refloat after grounding in the Kai Hai Channel.

The Governor's Yacht "Mansa Kila Ba" was in commission throughout the year and steamed 6,818 miles.

In addition to the Government flotilla of steamers and launches there are a number of privately owned craft in the Gambia. The cutters and schooners, which were formerly so picturesque a sight on the river, are now being gradually replaced by small steam craft and lighters.

A slight increase was recorded in the number of letters handled during the year and the travelling post offices on the Government steamers have proved a great convenience to the public. The four postal stations up river do a considerable business in money and postal orders. The wireless service has worked efficiently and the telephone system in Bathurst is well supported.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons.

There has been an almost entire absence of serious crimes in the Gambia and of the 30 cases tried by the Supreme Court during the year only two heavy sentences were imposed.

In the Police Magistrate's Court there has been a steady decline since the year 1922 which is attributed to the more settled conditions of trade after the boom of 1920—21.

The native tribunals have discharged their judicial duties with sagacity. The larger number of cases coming before them this year has been due not to increase in crime but to greater efficiency on the part of the Chiefs in its detection and suppression.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has had eleven suits to decide whilst the Court of Requests and the Cadi's Court in Bathurst have not been unduly burdened with cases. There has been more civil litigation in the Protectorate during the last twelve months and this is ascribed to the greater confidence now felt in the justice administered by the native tribunals.

The Police look after the prisons at Bathurst and Georgetown and the fire brigade at Bathurst is also manned by them. In addition to the constabulary at headquarters, there are four small detachments in the Protectorate.

The Band has been increased and its performances give great pleasure to the people.

No cases of drunkenness were reported during the year on the twenty-one licensed premises in Bathurst. The wine and beer shops are well conducted and, in the majority of cases, close, except on holidays and special occasions, before the legal hour.

VII.—Public Works.

As regards the more important undertakings now in hand, the work on the Slipway has been carried on throughout the year and it is anticipated that it will be opened before the trade season commences next year.

Operations in connection with the Bathurst Reclamation Scheme have been gravely hindered by the difficulty in finding material containing a sufficiently low proportion of mud to suit the dredger in the tidal area at the back of the town. When the ten-acre lot now being raised is ready for occupation, it will be laid out as a place of residence for some of the inhabitants whose yards close by are liable to periodic flooding during the rains.

The work on the deviation of the road between Bathurst and Cape St. Mary is nearing completion and will improve the communications with Kombo—the most fertile Province in the Protectorate.

During the year the Bathurst Market has been extended and a new slaughter house provided and on the confines of the town a new Infectious Diseases Hospital is being erected to replace the temporary building which formerly stood there.

Four new bungalows have been built for officers quarters in Buckle Street and Leman Street in accordance with plans prepared by a committee after careful consideration of the types adopted in other parts of Africa. All the official bungalows in Bathurst have now been supplied with baths and sinks and a real boon has been conferred on the public by the opening of a Government Ice Factory.

VIII.—Public Health.

In Bathurst, with its population of 10,473 which is nearly doubled temporarily during a prosperous trade season, there was no epidemic during the year under review.

The deaths exceeded the births, of which 263 were registered, by 144.

Of the rainfall of 57 inches, nearly one-half fell in the month of August. It is during the months from June to October that most of the sickness occurs. It was in November, however, that five cases of yellow fever broke out in Bathurst. The quarantine restrictions which were at once imposed have had a disastrous effect on the 1928/29 trade season. Sanitary arrangements in Bathurst are still primitive but the methods of scavenging which have to be carried out by horse carts have been improved by the purchase of a motor dust cart for use on the metalled roads. Improvements in reclamation and water supply are now under consideration.

There are two Hospitals in the Colony, one at Bathurst the other at Georgetown. At the former, 833 in-patients were admitted and 16,470 out-patients during the year and 162 operations were performed. Georgetown received 260 in-patients and 3,683 out-patients and some 4,000 cases were dealt with by the Protectorate Medical Officer and the Dispensers at Basse and Kau-ur. The infant mortality figures for Bathurst are 395 per thousand, but the effects of the Women and Children Welfare Clinic have been marked and its usefulness extended by the opening of a sub-clinic in New Street at the end of the year.

IX.—Education.

School attendance has remained as irregular during 1928 as in 1927 and compulsory education will have to be enforced before any definite improvement can take place. Of 1604 pupils on the register almost one-half presented themselves for the annual examination. Most of the teachers at work in the schools are not trained and only

a minority hold teachers certificates. Four certificates were granted this year to teachers out of thirteen candidates, but next year it is intended to start definite courses for teachers and also to re-establish a vocational school in Bathurst. Physical instruction and school athletics are encouraged and inter-school sports were held as usual on Empire Day.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides movement has taken firm hold in Bathurst, though it is at present run independently of the Schools. One boy has been sent to Manchester University to study medicine and two boys have been educated at Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, with Government scholarships. There are two Mohammedan Schools in the Gambia apart from the village Koran schools. These are at Bathurst and Georgetown and the latter, which has now completed the second year of its existence, has become one of the established institutions of the Gambia.

At it all the future Chiefs and many of the future Headmen of the Gambia are being taught. Its numbers have grown from 70 to 117 of whom 95 are boarders and the accommodation will have to be increased.

The agricultural training there consists entirely of practical work in the school garden, and the whole curriculum is designed with a view to interesting the boys in the country in which their lives will be lived, and to fortifying their characters.

X.—Lands and Survey.

Cadastral surveys are made of plots leased under the Public Lands Ordinance. Leases are granted either from year to year or for a term not exceeding twenty-one years.

In a few cases plans exist of wharf towns made from theodolite traverses, but most of the existing plans are very imperfect being made from compass surveys. No complete survey of the Protectorate has ever been made but successive Anglo-French boundary commissions have delimited its frontiers which terminate with an arc in the Upper River Province.

About £8,000 a year is derived by the Government from rents. There are no large holdings in the Protectorate the land area of which does not much exceed 2,000 square miles.

XI.—Miscellaneous.

The Protectorate Amendment Ordinance and the Protectorate Administration Amendment Rules were the most important pieces

of legislation passed during the year. The former gave the right of appeal to the Supreme Court in all cases, civil and criminal, tried in the first instance by a Commissioner sitting alone or with one or more native members, and in the case of Native Tribunals, composed entirely of native members, gave the aggrieved party the right to have his case re-tried by the Commissioner.

The new Supreme Court Rules made this year are already working well and speeding up litigation in a marked degree.

The first Certificate of Honour ever given in the Protectorate was bestowed on a Chief of Kombo with twenty-eight years' service. This distinction is highly prized by the native authorities.

A collection in Bathurst on Poppy Day for the British Legion produced £138.

Visitors to the Colony included Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., Permanent Under-Secretary of State, and Dr. Stanton, C.M.G., Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State.

A call was also made by the Empire Parliamentary Committee on their way to Nigeria, consisting of the Right Honourable Walter Elliot, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, Captain Garro-Jones, M.P., and the Right Honourable William Lunn, M.P., now Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

During the year the fort on James Island has been excavated and to a small extent repaired. In the seventeenth and eighteenth century it was the scene of much commercial activity and of constant rivalry between ourselves and the French and on more than one occasion was sacked by pirates. In 1726, a memorial to the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations described the Island as "Walled all round, outworks, small arms with stores, etc., formerly mounted with ninety small guns, now with thirty-eight great guns, with several warehouses, with rooms for the Governor, factors, writers, officers, artificers, soldiers and castle slaves, magazines and store houses with a negro-house for two hundred negroes".

C. R. M. WORKMAN,

Colonial Secretary.

15th July, 1929.

APPENDIX I.

Principal Firms, etc.

The following are the principal firms carrying on a general import and export trade:—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Address in Europe (if any).</i>
United Africa Co., Ltd. ...	Wellington Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, England.
Le Commerce Africain ...	"	22, Rue Ferrere, Bordeaux, France.
Bathurst Trading Co., Ltd.	"	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, England.
Etablissements Maurel et Prom.	"	18, Rue Porte Dijaux, Bordeaux, France.
Compagnie Française de l'Afrique Occidentale.	"	32, Cours Pierre Puget, Marseilles, France.
Gambia Trading Co. ...	Buckle Street	Royal Liver Building, Liverpool, England.
Maurel Frères. ...	Wellington Street	6, Quai Louis XVIII, Bordeaux, France.
Etablissements Vézia ...	"	83, Cours de Verdun, Bordeaux, France.
Palmine, Ltd ..	"	Moorgate Hall, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C., England.
V. Q. Petersen. ...	"	—

All the above firms are represented on the Bathurst Chamber of Commerce.

APPENDIX II.

List of Barristers, Solicitors, and Patent Agents.

Barristers are entitled to practise as Solicitors and *vice versa*.

* S. J. Forster, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Wellington Street.

* M. J. R. Pratt, M.A., B.C.L. (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Allen Street.

† G. K. Roberts, Allen Street.

W. D. Carrol, B. A., B. C. L. (Oxon), Barrister-at-Law, Picton Street.

G. S. W. Ladepon Thomas, Barrister-at-Law, Clarkson Street.

S. A. Benka-Coker, B.A., (Durham), Barrister-at-Law, Gloucester Street.

T. A. Taylor, Barrister-at-Law, Albion Place.

* Patent and Trade Mark Agent. † Trade Mark Agent.

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

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3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

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Report.

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Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

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Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.

Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9d.).

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REPORT FOR 1928.

(For Report for 1927, see No. 1389, price 1s.)



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NYASALAND.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
GEOGRAPHY	2
HISTORICAL	3
CLIMATE	4
LANGUAGES	4
CURRENCY, ETC.	5
I. GENERAL	5
II. FINANCE	7
III. PRODUCTION	8
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	12
V. COMMUNICATIONS	15
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	17
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	18
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH	18
IX. EDUCATION	20
X. LAND AND SURVEY	21
XI. LABOUR... ..	22
XII. MISCELLANEOUS	22

MAP.

Geography.

The territory comprised in the Nyasaland Protectorate is a strip about 520 miles in length and varying from 50 to 100 miles in width. It lies approximately between latitude S. 9°45' and 17°16' and longitude E. 33° and 36°. The area is roughly 40,000 square miles or about one-third the area of the British Isles. The most southerly portion of the Protectorate is about 130 miles from the sea as the crow flies.

This strip falls naturally into two divisions: (1) consisting of the western shore of Lake Nyasa, with the high tablelands separating it from the basin of the Luangwa river in Northern Rhodesia, and (2) the region lying between the watershed of the Zambesi river and Shire river on the west and the Lakes Chiuta and Chilwa and the Ruw river, an affluent of the Shire, on the east, including the mountain systems of the Shire Highlands and Mlanje and a small portion, also mountainous, of the south-eastern coast of Lake Nyasa.

The Protectorate is divided for administrative purposes into four **Provinces**, the Zomba, Southern, Central, and Northern, each of **which** is in the charge of a Provincial Commissioner. Each Province is sub-divided into districts in the charge of Residents.

The chief towns are Blantyre, with about 300 European inhabitants, Limbe near Blantyre, and Zomba, the seat of the Government.

Historical.

Very little is known of the history of the region now called Nyasaland before the middle of the past century. Jasper Bocarro, a Portuguese, is said to have been the first European to visit Nyasaland; he appears to have travelled early in the 17th century from the Zambesi to the junction of the Ruo and Shire rivers and thence via Lake Shirwa and the Lujenda river to the coast at Mikandani.

The real history of Nyasaland begins with the advent of Dr. Livingstone, who, after experiencing considerable difficulty in ascending the Shire, discovered Lakes Shirwa and Pamalombe, and on the 16th September, 1859, reached the southern shore of Lake Nyasa. Livingstone was closely followed by a mission under Bishop Mackenzie, sent out by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The mission settled in the Shire Highlands, but, on account of loss of its members by sickness and otherwise, it withdrew in 1862. It was subsequently re-established in 1881 on Lake Nyasa, with headquarters on the island of Likoma, where it still remains.

In 1874, the Livingstonia Mission, named in honour of the great explorer, was founded by the Free Church of Scotland. They were joined in 1876 by the pioneers of the Church of Scotland Mission, who chose the site of the present town of Blantyre and established themselves in the Shire Highlands, while the Free Church applied itself to the evangelization of the inhabitants of the shores of Lake Nyasa.

The Missions were followed by the African Lakes Corporation, and in 1883 Captain Foote, R.N., was appointed first British Consul for the territories north of the Zambesi, to reside at Blantyre.

A serious danger had arisen in connection with Arab slave traders who had settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa. At the time of Livingstone's first visit he found the Arabs established in a few places on what is now the Portuguese shore of the Lake and at Kota-Kota on the west side. Arab caravans, trading with the tribes in and beyond the valley of the Luangwa, were in the habit of crossing the Lake on their way to and from the sea coast. Opposition of the new settlers to the slave trade carried on by Arab coastmen and natives alike resulted in a conflict with the Arab traders under Chief Mlozi, settled at the north end of Lake Nyasa, which spread to the Yao chiefs, who were under their influence.

In the summer of 1889, the late Mr. Johnston (afterwards Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.) arrived at Mozambique as H.B.M.

Consul and proceeded to travel in the interior to inquire into the troubles with the Arabs.

Treaties having been concluded with the remaining Makololo chiefs and with the Yaos round Blantyre, Mr. Johnston proceeded up Lake Nyasa, leaving Mr. John Buchanan, Acting-Consul, in charge, who, after the first encounter between Major Serpa Pinto and Mlauri, a powerful Makololo chief, proclaimed on 21st September, 1889, a British Protectorate over the Shire districts.

In 1891, an Anglo-Portuguese Convention ratified the work of Mr. Johnston, Mr. Sharpe (now Sir A. Sharpe, K.C.M.G., C.B.), and other pioneers of British Central Africa, and in the following spring a British Protectorate over the countries adjoining Nyasa was proclaimed. The Protectorate of Nyasaland, under the administration of an Imperial Commissioner, was confined to the regions adjoining the Shire and Lake Nyasa, the remainder of the territory under British influence north of the Zambesi being placed, subject to certain conditions, under the British South Africa Company.

On 22nd February, 1893, the name of the Protectorate was changed to "The British Central Africa Protectorate," but the old name "Nyasaland Protectorate" was revived in October, 1907, by the Order in Council which amended the Constitution.

Climate.

The climate of Nyasaland in its essential feature is similar to that of the rest of Eastern Africa within the tropics.

The climate is necessarily diversified in various districts, owing to variations in latitude, altitude, and general configuration of the terrain, presence or absence of rivers, forests, etc., but, as a large proportion of the Protectorate lies at an altitude of 3,000 feet or more, the heat is not generally excessive. The monsoon commences to blow strongly in September, in conjunction with the sun's increase in southerly declination, and the first rains may be expected any time after mid-October. From their commencement to the end of December it is usual to experience violent thunderstorms and heavy precipitation in a few hours, followed by an interval varying from one to fifteen or twenty days of intense heat. With the return of the sun from its southern limit of declination, the thunderstorms diminish in intensity and frequency, and are replaced by steady rain—January, February, and March being usually the wettest months as regards duration of rainfall as well as actual amount. After March the frequency and intensity of rainfall diminish rapidly and from May to September the climate is comparatively cool and dry.

Languages.

The principal language spoken in the Protectorate is Nyanja, which is understood by most tribes throughout the country and is the official language which all civil servants are expected to learn.

Other languages in use in various parts of Nyasaland are Yao, Nguru (which is spoken chiefly by natives who have immigrated from Portuguese East Africa), Tumbuka, Tonga, and Nkonde, the last three practically confined to the Northern Province. Swahili is spoken to a limited extent, chiefly by Mohammedan Yaos.

Currency, etc.

The currency of the Protectorate consists of English coinage, gold, silver, and copper, but there is no note issue and notes of other parts of the Empire are not legal tender.

The weights and measures in use are also the ordinary English units, although there is an increasing tendency to use the short ton of 2,000 lb. The only two banks operating in Nyasaland are the Standard Bank of South Africa and Barclays' Overseas Bank, formerly the National Bank of South Africa.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency opened the 36th session of the Legislative Council on the 2nd of April and, in dealing with the Estimates, observed that the Secretary of State's advisers had convinced him that the results of the experiments embarked on in 1926 with regard to tsetse fly control measures had not proved so hopeless as it at one time appeared would be the case, and he had accordingly directed that the work should be resumed. In order that an adequate supply of labour might be available for the experiments, the Secretary of State had authorised the proclamation of the work as being of a public nature under the District Administration (Native) Ordinance, 1924. The Governor also announced that he had appointed a standing committee with unofficial representation to advise the Government generally on matters concerning the spread of the tsetse fly, the creation of game reserves, and the destruction or disturbance of game in its relation to the movement of the fly.

The Natives on Private Estates Ordinance which had reached the Committee stage at a previous Session was passed through its remaining stage, the Secretary of State having agreed in the meantime to an amendment whereby the acquisition clauses would not be applicable to estates of less than 3,000 acres. The Governor stated that he would not give his assent until he had acquainted the Secretary of State with any views submitted by Members on the question of restricting land that might be acquired by Government to undeveloped land. The Ordinance received His Excellency's assent in August and in November an amending Ordinance was passed of which the principal purpose was to raise the 3,000 acre limit for acquisition to 10,000 acres.

The Governor also announced that the draft of a new Crown Lands Bill had been sent to the Secretary of State for consideration

and that, as the Native Lands Bill was still being held up, the Government was considering the proclamation of Native Reserves under the Crown Lands Ordinance, 1912, as a step towards the creation of Native Trust Lands.

At that time the weather had been so unfavourable that famine conditions later on appeared inevitable. Happily, the prospects improved later on and no famine occurred, although a considerable expenditure was incurred in making the necessary preparations to meet the food shortage which no one at that time doubted would prevail.

In connection with the visit of the Commission on Closer Union, His Excellency commented on the fact that it was peculiarly fortunate that Mr. Oldham was a member and that, as member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Native Education in Tropical Africa, he was able to give his attention to the working of the new education policy of the Government and submitted a memorandum on the subject which would be of the greatest value in removing misunderstandings that had arisen as to the effect and intentions of the new policy.

He also stated that he had discussed the financial position of the Protectorate very fully with Sir George Schuster, another member of the Commission, and that as a result he was engaged in preparing for the consideration of the Secretary of State a scheme for the re-arrangement of the system of financial control exercised over the Protectorate by the Imperial Treasury, and for meeting our increased liabilities in respect of the capital it would be necessary to provide for improved transportation facilities and for departmental expansion with the object of increasing production so as to increase exports and thus provide the necessary means to reduce the incubus of the Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee.

At the session held on the 16th of July, the new unofficial members took their seats for the first time. The Governor stated that the new Crown Lands Bill, which had been prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Secretary of State after very lengthy correspondence, would be introduced at that session, but that he did not intend to pass it through its final stages without allowing ample time for the Secretary of State to consider any objections that might be raised in the debate on the Bill.

The Thirty-Eighth session was held on the 12th of November. His Excellency announced that it had naturally been a great disappointment to everyone in Nyasaland that Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester had been unable to pay the Protectorate a visit during their East African trip. He had ascertained, however, that lack of time and difficulties of communications had prevented Their Royal Highnesses from arranging their programme so as to pass through Nyasaland or at least to visit the Nyasaland shores of Lake Nyasa.

As regards the Crown Lands Bill, the Governor said that he was not authorised to abandon the two main principles which he understood were to be vigorously opposed, namely the perpetuation of the system of auctioning rentals and the terms under which existing leaseholders could convert their leases to leases for 99 years. He proposed to refer the Bill to a select committee for consideration of the detailed provisions and to ask the committee to report to the Council at the next session. In the meantime he undertook to forward for the consideration of the Secretary of State the gist of the opposition to the general principles of the Bill.

He referred to the scheme for guaranteeing advances to planters to enable them to tide over the period of depression in the tobacco market and stated that it was then in operation, and that advances aggregating £5,700 had been approved to 17 planters.

In July, the Governor called an informal conference, presided over by the Chief Secretary and attended by Heads of Departments, to which all the local European Associations were invited to appoint delegates. As a result of this conference a local Convention of Associations was formed, which will serve a very useful purpose in representing the views of the public on matters of common interest.

In February, Sir Alan Cobham passed through Nyasaland in his flying boat on his African transcontinental journey.

In June, Monsignor Arthur Hinsley visited Nyasaland. He was delegated by the Holy See to visit the Roman Catholic missions in British Africa with special reference to their co-operation in the education policy of the Government. His visit was made the occasion of an Education Conference at which the Education Board and the Heads of the majority of the local missions were present.

During the year, the Secretary of State sanctioned the renaming of Mount Nyamhowa, which overlooks the spot at Livingstonia from which the Reverend Dr. Robert Laws, C.M.G., directed the affairs of his mission. In future this mountain will be known as Mount Laws, in honour of this eminent missionary.

II.—FINANCE.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during each of the past five financial years :—

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				£	£
1924—25	...	...	...	293,055	295,481
1925—26	...	...	...	322,160	303,205
1926—27	...	...	...	348,320	318,899
1927 (April-December)	...	...	...	346,341	266,519
1928	...	...	...	378,123(a)	407,377(b)

(a) Includes £3,156 Loan in aid of annuities, Trans-Zambesia Railway.

(b) Includes £18,276 redemption of Famine Relief Loan, 1924.

The public debt of the Protectorate as at the 31st of December, 1928, was as follows :—

<i>Loan.</i>	<i>Total Loan received.</i>	<i>Interest & Annuity Charges paid in 1928.</i>	<i>Unredeemed balances.</i>
	£	£	£
Shire Highlands Railway :—			
Subsidy Lands	180,800	8,371	147,593
East African Protectorates :—			
Loan 1915 ... 4 per cent.	12,000	2,890	42,108
do. ... 6 per cent.	33,348		
Trans-Zambesia Railway Guarantee and Annuity Loans 1921-27 :—			
January Issues (Plus Interest 1927, £9,660)	195,000	13,650	189,210
March Issues	210,550	14,739	189,489
July Issues	125,000	8,750	122,500
June Issues	25,000	1,750	24,500
December Issues	25,000	1,750	24,500
Loan in Aid of Famine Relief, 1924	20,000	1,745	Nil
	£826,698	53,645	739,900

The state of depression in the tobacco market was reflected in the trade of the country and as a consequence the revenue fell below the estimate. The balance of assets over liabilities was reduced during the year by almost £30,000, although this was due in great part to the fact that £18,276 was paid out of ordinary expenditure to redeem the balance of the Loan in Aid of Famine Relief made in 1924.

An amendment was made in the Income Tax Ordinance so as to exempt single persons from tax on the first £300 and married persons on the first £600 as well as to grant allowances in respect of children and insurance.

Under the Non-native Poll Tax Ordinance a charge of two pounds a head was levied on all adult male non-natives.

The Customs Schedule was amended by raising the import duties on spirits from 25s. to 30s. a proof gallon, and the road and river dues on imports and import transit traffic from 2 per cent. to 3 per cent. *ad valorem*.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

Cotton.—In 1923, the area of cotton planted by Europeans was 20,948 acres. By 1928 it had fallen to 1,046 acres, so that the amount of cotton now grown by Europeans is practically negligible. Unless it is taken up as a rotation crop in mid-elevations there is not much prospect of a revival in this industry.

In 1928, Europeans produced 52 tons of lint cotton and natives produced 746 tons, the percentages of the total being 6.52 and 93.48 respectively. Native production increased from 2,197 tons

of seed cotton in 1926 to 2,486 tons in 1928. The increase in native production took place chiefly on the Lower Shire. During the year the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation introduced a new variety of seed known as "Over the Top" which is proving satisfactory.

Tobacco.—The season was not so favourable for this crop as in the previous year, which was a record one for quantity, and there was a general falling off. The main feature of the season was the growth of dark tobacco rather than brights owing to the glut of the latter variety on the home market. The Native Tobacco Board is concentrating on the Central Province, and there is a marked improvement in native culture and curing.

In 1928, tobacco accounted for 6,482 tons out of the total of 9,192 tons of crops produced for export. Europeans produced 4,068 tons or 62.76 per cent. of the total, and natives produced 2,414 tons or 37.24 per cent. of the whole crop, being a slightly lower proportion than in 1927.

There was not the increase in the number of native tobacco growers that was anticipated, probably owing to the comparatively low prices received by natives the previous year. The number of registered native growers declined from 66,321 in 1927 to 34,761 in 1928.

Tea.—This crop continues to expand and in 1928 there was an increase of 526 acres under tea as compared with 1927. The improvement in the standard of cultivation and manufacture continues and there is evidence of progress on all sides in this industry, both as regards increased acreage and new factories. An interesting and valuable report was issued by Dr. Butler following upon his visit to the country the previous year.

Sisal.—The recent expansion in the production of this product was continued during the year, the amount exported rising to 1,161 tons as compared with 801 tons in 1927.

Coffee.—Interest in this crop is reviving in a small way, and the area devoted to it increased from 875 acres in 1925 to 1,281 acres in 1928. It is hardly likely, however, that coffee will again become an important product in Nyasaland.

The following table shows the annual exports of the principal products in quantities and values during each of the past five years :—

	1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.	
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Tobacco	3,145	352,348	3,088	345,872	4,081	457,122	6,905	780,964	5,193	496,561
Cotton ...	995	120,564	1,023	96,245	1,377	93,243	826	45,834	797	58,264
Sisal ...	799	18,015	785	19,388	529	16,799	801	24,428	1,162	29,814
Tea ...	473	57,046	516	64,242	528	62,675	522	56,640	637	73,599
Coffee ...	21	1,762	9	768	25	2,174	16	1,203	21	1,542

It may be noted that the successful operations of the Native Tobacco Board gave rise to the question of creating a Native Agricultural Board, and, as a result the Senior Provincial Commissioner at the November session of the Legislative Council gave notice that he proposed to move the following resolution at the next session of the Council :—

“ That the Council agree to the appointment by His Excellency of a Committee to consider and report upon the desirability or otherwise of the formation of a Native Agricultural Board.”

Such a Board, if created, would be vested with the duties hitherto performed by the Native Tobacco Board and would be further charged with the duties of supervising and assisting natives in the production of native crops both economic and otherwise.

Veterinary.

Tick-borne parasites were the main cause of losses among all classes of animals during the year.

The tick-borne parasites *babesia bigeminum* and *babesia bovis* as well as *theileria mutans* occur in cattle throughout Nyasaland, and usually cause a comparatively low mortality except where there are other adverse factors, such as liver fluke, wireworm, or tapeworm infection.

East coast fever, *theileria parva* infection, in addition to the annually recurrent losses in the districts where the disease is enzootic, has occurred in epizootic form in parts of the Central Province, and in the early part of the year 563 deaths were reported as having occurred from this disease in one small portion of the Dedza District.

The policy of extending dipping facilities into the cattle rearing districts is being continued. In the southern district of the Central Province, Ncheu, 88 per cent. of the cattle are now being dipped and an increasing percentage of the cattle in the other districts of the Central Province are being provided for each year.

Outbreaks of trypanosomiasis, although detected in practically every district of the country at different times during the year, have not caused very heavy mortality except in North Nyasa, where the spread of tsetse fly and some illicit movements of cattle through tsetse fly infested zones was a cause of losses from this disease.

Infestation by various helminths is extremely common and is often a contributory cause of mortality. This applies particularly to the common liver fluke, which infests the livers of cattle grazed in the highlands and also to the wireworms and tapeworms which are a serious menace to the rearing of young calves. These conditions are being combated, as the number of trained African Field Assistants increases, by the more general application of means for the prevention of infection, and also by the treatment of animals already infected.

The diseases anthrax, blackquarter, demodectic mange and streptothricosis of cattle have been well under control. Only one case of tuberculosis in cattle and one case of rabies in a dog were reported during the year.

The general increase in the numbers of all classes of animals has been extremely satisfactory.

Forestry.

No new Forest Reserves were proclaimed during the year, although various proposals for further reservation were put forward for consideration.

Certain adjustments were made in the boundaries of two or three reserves in order to exclude native settlements, and others were closely examined with a view to excluding any existing native settlements in them, either by reduction of area or by concentrating the villages into definite excisions.

The preliminary reconnaissance of the Protectorate's forests, which was commenced in 1923, is now practically complete (with the exception of the North Nyasa District which is owned by the British South Africa Company), and much has been accomplished in the collection of data as to the distribution, composition, and existing state of the forests in each district. It is established that the forests mostly consist of the dry "open woodland" and "savanna" types which are generally of little commercial value except for providing poles and fuel for local use. Nevertheless such material constitutes the main demand of the population in its present stage of development and vigorous action is considered necessary to safeguard future supplies, on account of forest destruction due to the practice of shifting-cultivation by the people.

The scheme of "village forest areas," referred to in last year's Report, is considered to be the only practical means of dealing with the matter. To a great extent it must essentially be an administrative concern, although the Forestry Department will give all possible advice and assistance in promoting and developing the scheme. Only a very few new "village forest areas" were allocated and demarcated during the past year, chiefly on account of District Commissioners being unable to spare time to co-operate in this particular work.

There were 1,223 convictions under the Forest Ordinance during the year, as compared with a total of 288 in 1927. This increase was due to stricter measures being taken for enforcing the forest regulations rather than to any actual increase in the breach of them.

Departmental exploitation of the Mlanje cypress forests, for supplying building timber to the Public Works Department, was continued throughout the year and adequate stocks of sawn timber were made available.

Timber, poles, and firewood were also supplied to the Public Works and other Government Departments from plantations at Zomba, Blantyre, and South Nyasa.

Timber and forest produce was sold to the public under the licence system, and forest revenue showed a satisfactory increase over previous years.

Short courses of instruction for Native Foresters and Forest Guards were held in the Southern, Central, and Northern Provinces.

The Mlanje cypress forests and all forest plantations were protected from fire by means of hoed roads and fire patrols. Fire was also successfully kept out of a few of the smaller "protection" reserves. Cleaning, tending, and thinning operations were undertaken in existing plantations, and additional areas were planted up under afforestation schemes at Zomba, Limbe, and Dedza. Re-afforestation was also carried out at Mlanje, in areas of cypress forest which had been clear-felled under exploitation plans.

Experimental work was continued in all forest divisions, particular attention being given to :—

(a) The trial of indigenous and exotic species, for afforestation purposes, under varying climatic and soil conditions.

(b) Various methods of nursery practice, with a view to ascertaining the most suitable for various species.

(c) Immunity of species from attack by termites and other pests.

(d) Work in connection with minor products, e.g., gums.

Advice on forestry matters was given to the public wherever asked for either by letter, interview, or by personal inspection.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

Trade conditions during 1928 were detrimentally affected by the depressed state of the market for Empire tobacco, with the result that the volume of trade decreased by £439,696, equal to 19.9 per cent., when compared with the exceptionally good trade year of 1927. Compared, however, with the year 1926, a year of normal conditions, the volume of trade shows an increase of £129,013, or 7.8 per cent. Occasional set-backs are to be expected in a country, the present mainstay of which is tobacco growing, and the trade of which is governed by the success or otherwise of this commodity. Despite these set-backs, however, Nyasaland trade continues to make gratifying progress.

Imports of a capital nature were fewer, partly due, no doubt, to requirements of this kind being imported during the year preceding this in quantities sufficient for a number of years. This applies especially to the larger types of motor-lorries.

The fall in market prices of some of the important products of the Protectorate, particularly sisal, tea, and cotton, also affected the purchasing power of the country. This fall so affected the local values of exports as to be the main cause of the trade balance veering again to imports, by £162,706. In the preceding year this balance favoured exports by £22,408.

The import of cotton piece goods appears to be steadily declining, due, doubtless, to the greater attraction of ready-made clothing, shirts, &c. The native demand for bicycles, sewing machines, and cheap hardware is yearly increasing.

The incidence of the import trade remains practically the same as last year, viz. :—European 57 per cent., Native 38 per cent., and Indian 5 per cent.

The volume of trade, domestic imports and exports (excluding Government imports) and goods in transit, is shown below for each of the last five years :—

Year.						Volume of Trade. £
1924	...	...	...	...	...	1,278,407
1925	...	...	...	...	...	1,294,300
1926	...	...	...	...	...	1,637,729
1927	...	...	...	...	...	2,206,438
1928	...	...	...	...	...	1,766,742

As compared with 1927, the trade volume of the year may be analysed as under :—

				1928. £	1927. £	Decrease. £
Imports ...	...	...	...	869,463	938,461	68,998
Exports ...	...	...	...	706,757	960,869	254,112
Transit Inwards	...	...	...	93,313	127,147	33,834
Transit Outwards	...	...	...	97,209	179,961	82,752
				<u>£1,766,742</u>	<u>£2,206,438</u>	<u>£439,696</u>

The importation of manufactured articles declined by £56,492, equal to 7.1 per cent., when compared with that of the previous year. Iron and steel manufactures improved by 6,847 cwt. and £5,111, this increase being due, mainly, to larger importations of structural material for tea factories, and railway rolling stock and materials increased by 97,965 cwt., and £43,552. Decreases are shown against agricultural implements and machinery by 5,667 cwt. and £9,920; machinery by 333 cwt., and £7,618; motor spirit by 25,646 gallons and £6,226; cotton manufactures by £7,938; and vehicles and parts by £58,654.

Touring motor-cars, with a total import of 128 (78 from the United Kingdom) were fewer by 8, and commercial lorries and tractors with a total of 88 (United Kingdom 14) were less by 132. Cotton piece goods, with a total import quantity of 8,190,440 lineal yards, declined by 679,790 yards.

The significant feature of the domestic trade is the considerable comparative increase in the value of foreign imports which, this year and for the first time in Nyasaland's history, exceeds the value of direct imports from the United Kingdom. The shipment value

of imports from the United Kingdom was 39.49 per cent. of the total as against 43.76 per cent. in 1927 and 44.66 per cent. in 1926. Foreign imports equalled 40.32 per cent. of the whole as compared with 33.75 per cent. in 1927 and 34.61 per cent. in 1926. Imports from Germany, increased by 2.73 per cent. and those from Japan increased by .21 per cent.

The following table shows four years' direct importations of cotton manufactures, the most valuable item in the import trade of the Protectorate, and indicates how the United Kingdom still continues to lose this trade.

Year.	Total Value.	From United Kingdom.		From India.		From Other British Possessions.		From Foreign Countries.	
	£	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
1925	259,074	108,843	42.0	73,438	28.4	17,614	6.8	59,179	22.8
1926	306,863	108,563	35.38	66,634	21.71	9,016	2.94	122,650	39.97
1927	275,954	62,257	22.56	95,446	34.59	7,272	2.63	110,979	40.22
1928	268,016	43,651	16.28	76,988	28.72	10,267	3.84	137,110	51.16

The allocation of direct consignments of domestic trade imports for each of the last four years, is given in the statement below :—

Year.	United Kingdom.		British Possessions.		Foreign Countries.	
	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
1925 ...	295,844	50.0	139,325	23.5	156,482	26.5
1926 ...	353,334	44.66	163,923	20.73	273,797	34.61
1927 ...	410,659	43.76	211,065	22.49	316,737	33.75
1928 ...	343,383	39.49	175,557	20.19	350,523	40.32

Since 1925 direct imports from the United Kingdom have declined by 10.51 per cent., those from British possessions by 3.31 per cent., while those from foreign countries have increased by 13.82 per cent.

India, outside the United Kingdom, is the largest contributor in the Empire to the Protectorate's import trade; shipping 11.5 per cent. of the total—mainly cotton manufactures. South Africa shipped 4.5 per cent. and Southern Rhodesia 3.4 per cent. Of the foreign countries Portuguese East Africa supplied 13.7 per cent. of the total, chiefly motor spirit, paraffin, cotton manufactures, salt, and sugar; Germany shipped 8.4 per cent., cotton goods, beads, hoes and hardware; the United States supplied 5.8 per cent., cotton goods; Belgium 4.4 per cent., rolling stock; Holland 2.6 per cent., cotton goods, blankets, beads, and fertilizers and Japan 1.5 per cent.

The uncertainty of the tobacco market restricted production of this commodity, with the result that the weight exported, amounting to 5,193 tons, was less by 1,711 tons than the quantity shipped in 1927. There was a larger production of cotton, due to stabilised and improved prices, although the quantity actually exported, amounting to 797 tons, was lower than the 1927 shipment by 28 tons. This discrepancy is accounted for by a large carry over from 1926 compared with a much smaller carry over into 1928. Natives produced over 90 per cent. of the 1928 crop.

Tea improved its export weight by 114 tons, being 637 tons as against 523 tons shipped in 1927, and sisal exports, having this year taken second place in Protectorate crops, were better by 360 tons. The quantity shipped amounted to 1,161½ tons. The weight of fibre exported 15 years ago was 17 tons.

The total exports of the Protectorate weighed 8,962 tons and were valued at £706,757, as against 9,820 tons valued at £960,869 in 1927. A decrease in weight of 8.74 per cent. and in value of 26.4 per cent.

Of the total domestic products exported the United Kingdom took 96 per cent. by weight and 99.4 per cent. by value. Exports to other countries were negligible.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Except for the steamers of the British India Line which maintain a regular mail service, there are no fixed sailing dates from Beira and passengers are often kept waiting some days at that port awaiting the departure of the ship on which they are booked. Similar delays occur on the inward journey, as there is only one regular train a week from Beira to Blantyre, although a mid-week or special train is occasionally run. The voyage from England to Beira takes about 30 days by mail steamer and from five to six weeks by other vessels.

Railways.

There are three separate railway systems to be passed over on the journey from Beira to Blantyre, although they are all under one management. These are the Trans-Zambesi Railway from Beira to Murraca on the south of the Zambesi. Passengers and cargoes cross the river by a ferry-steamer, for as yet there is no bridge. From Chindio, opposite Murraca, the Central African railway runs to Port Herald, and the Shire Highlands Railway continues from the latter place, the port of entry into the Protectorate, to Blantyre. The journey normally occupies two days, passengers sleeping the intervening night on the ferry-steamer.

Roads.

Road development was continued from funds provided under the East African Loan, and it may be said that every local area of production not directly served by railway or lake steamer now has its road connection, for motor transport purposes, with the rail-head.

It follows that future development will consist of improvement of the present road system rather than its extension, and will particularly include the execution of such works as will reduce the frequency and duration of the periods, in the wet season, for which un-metalled roads have to be closed to heavy traffic.

The road between Blantyre and Tete, and thence to Salisbury, was opened during the dry season. The extent to which it was used indicated that it will form a important inter-territorial link in the future.

With regard to maintenance, an earth road of the type which constitutes over nine-tenths of the road system of the Protectorate requires to be reconditioned annually after the rains, and then, if used by heavy traffic, must be kept continuously under repair. Pending the introduction, at each road centre, of mechanical equipment of the type which has been evolved in the United States of America for dealing with earth roads, and which is being generally adopted wherever similar conditions prevail (as for instance in Kenya and Tanganyika), attempts have been made to institute a system of maintenance by permanent gangs, living on the road in camps which have been provided for them. The alternative of arranging with local natives, through their Headman, for the re-conditioning and maintenance of certain sections of road adjacent to their villages and remunerating them on a piece-work basis, has also been tried. By neither method has much success been achieved at present, and for the most part the work has to be executed by casual labour taken on by the month, which is unsatisfactory owing to the difficulties first, of securing a regular supply of volunteers when and where they are required, and secondly, of training and supervising them.

Postal.

The abnormal increase in mail traffic for 1927 over 1926 was not maintained in 1928, but the increase, though small, was satisfactory.

The number of postal articles dealt with was 2,440,000 as compared with 2,411,672. Local letters increased by 37,660. Correspondence to and from Great Britain showed a slight increase, but traffic with other countries showed a considerable decrease. Parcels also decreased by 900.

The C.O.D. for parcels continued to be popular.

Money orders and postal orders show a satisfactory increase.

Telegraphs.

There was a decrease in telegraph traffic in 1928 as compared with 1927. The increase in 1927 was mainly due to the introduction of

the Cape Town "beam" wireless installation which resulted in "beam" traffic to and from Tanganyika Territory and Kenya transmitting over our land lines. Owing to serious delay due to the number of transmissions this traffic has reverted to the cable route. Apart from the abnormal increase in 1927 the traffic for 1928 was very satisfactory, an increase of 11,274 messages over 1926 being shown.

The telegraph system was extended during the year and both telegraph and telephone construction is provided for in 1929.

The Protectorate is still without a wireless installation and no provision has yet been made for the introduction of this useful system. Over 40 free licences have been issued in respect of receiving sets and excellent results have been obtained on both long wave and short wave sets.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The Police Force consists of 14 European officers and 502 African ranks. The cost of the Police Department for 1928 was £16,977.

Crime.

Crime in the settled areas of the Southern and Zomba Provinces has not shown the same tendency to increase as in the years immediately following the War. The total number of offences reported was 2,643, of which 387 were offences against the person and 1,048 against property, resulting in the convictions of 53 Europeans, 54 Asiatics, and 1,795 Africans.

There is little serious crime in the districts not affected by the settlement of non-natives.

Prisons.

The established prisons of the Protectorate consist of a Central Prison at Zomba for the detention of long-sentence prisoners, at which various trades are taught, and 19 District prisons, situated at the headquarter stations of each District, for the detention of short-sentence prisoners.

The prison staff consists of a Chief Inspector of Prisons and two other European officers, and 128 African warders and wardresses. The European officers are in charge of the Central Prison, and District prisons are under the supervision of District Administrative or Police officers.

The total number of persons committed to the prisons during 1928 was 3,280, of whom 667 were for safe custody pending trial and 2,613 for purposes of penal imprisonment, including 17 capital sentences.

The cost of the Prison Department for 1928 was £5,733.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The following table gives expenditure under the various heads for 1928, compared with that for the previous year :—

	1927. £	1928. £
Public Works Department ...	15,048	16,247
Public Works Annually Recurrent	14,834	15,655
Public Works Extraordinary ...	12,797	13,836
Loan	9,409	17,704
Total ...	<u>£52,088</u>	<u>£63,442</u>
Total increase		<u>£11,354</u>

The following were the most important works undertaken during the year, apart from ordinary maintenance and improvement of buildings, roads, &c. :—

The new east wing of Government House, Zomba, containing the drawing-room and principle bed-rooms, was completed and occupied.

The west wing containing dining and ball-room with council chamber on the ground floor, and spare bed-rooms on the first floor, was partially roofed by the end of the year.

New European quarters were completed as follows :—

Magistrate, Blantyre (by contract), Police Officer and Forest Officer, Limbe.

New European quarters in progress but not completed were :—

Comptroller of Customs, Limbe ; Assistant Director of Education and Assistant Auditor, Zomba.

A standard steel bridge of 100 feet span, with brick arch approach spans, was erected at Lilongwe on the trunk road from Dedza.

A similar bridge was commenced at Ngara, across the Bua river, on the Great North road.

The steel work was imported for two other similar bridges for the Luchenza-Mlanje road.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The population of the Protectorate at the end of 1928 was estimated at 1,877 Europeans, 1,085 Asiatics, and 1,326,165 Natives.

The health of the European population during 1928 was good. One hundred and forty-seven Europeans were admitted to the Government hospitals as compared with 179 during the previous year. Five deaths were recorded as against four in 1927. The number treated as out-patients was also lower, being 652 against 715 in 1927. As in previous years, malaria was responsible for more sickness amongst Europeans than any other disease. Of the total

number of cases—799—malaria was responsible for 127—the same number as in 1927. Infections of the air passages amounted to 90 ; influenza, 50 ; diarrhoea and enteritis, 55.

From the Native population 3,781 cases were admitted to the Government hospitals as in-patients and, as out-patients, 168,181 cases were treated, the attendances amounting to well over half a million. Over 40,000 cases of skin diseases were treated, of which more than half were ulcers. Injuries of various kinds amounted to over 29,000, as did affections of the digestive system, whilst respiratory affections numbered over 25,000. Of the recorded deaths over 21 per cent. were due to bronchitis or pneumonia ; nearly 17 per cent. were the result of injuries (including accidental poisoning) ; over 10 per cent. were due to ankylostomiasis, and over 10 per cent. to diarrhoea or dysentery. Of the other deaths recorded no one disease was responsible for over 4 per cent.

Towards the latter part of the year smallpox broke out, having spread from adjoining territory, and some 25 cases were reported. The outbreak continued into the year 1929 and the numbers of cases increased.

During the year, further statistics were collected in various parts of the Protectorate in an endeavour to obtain figures relating to births and deaths among natives. Although the figures relate to small areas, they may be considered representative of the whole Protectorate, in so far as it is possible to obtain reliable statistics without creating an elaborate machinery for the purpose, such as a systematic registration of births and deaths.

In the Central Province, villages totalling 2,362 huts with a population of 6,849, produced the following results :—

<i>Births.</i>	<i>Infants.</i>	<i>Children.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i> <i>Adults.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
315	63	35	45	143

The infantile mortality was thus 200 per 1,000 births.

In the South Nyasa District of the Zomba Province, statistics were kept of 6 villages with a total of 1,457 huts and the figures were :—

<i>Births.</i>	<i>Infants.</i>	<i>Children.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i> <i>Adults.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
194	43	9	28	80

In this case the infantile mortality was 221.6 per 1,000.

The District Commissioner, Liwonde, also in the Zomba Province, made a special effort to get at the facts of infantile mortality. He pointed out that the collection of these statistics causes considerable annoyance to the people questioned, especially to the old women, who on occasion were seen to break down and wail when reminded of their dead children. It would appear that although the births may be accurately recorded, the deaths, as the figures quoted above seem to show, are not so readily revealed.

The Liwonde figures were as follows :—

			<i>Births.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>			
				<i>Infants.</i>	<i>Children.</i>	<i>Adults.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hill People...	...	...	169	24	22	8	54
River People	...	...	159	28	23	21	72
Government employees	...	...	125	16	34	—	50
Totals			453	68	79	29	176

So far as these figures can be taken as representative they show a much higher mortality in the low-lying district than in the hills.

The infantile mortality was 142 per 1,000 in the hills, and 176 per 1,000 in the low levels.

IX.—EDUCATION.

During the year the Government and all interested in education throughout the Protectorate sustained a deep loss through the death while on leave of Mr. R. F. Gaunt, the Director of Education.

Visits of inspection were made to all mission stations by the late Director and Assistant Director, and a few village schools were also inspected. The Board of Education held four meetings during the year and the Executive Committee of the Board met on four occasions.

From the educational point of view, the most important matter of the year was the drafting of a new Education Ordinance to meet the objections that had been raised in various quarters to the 1927 Ordinance. The Foreign Missions Committee of the United Free Church of Scotland and the Universities Mission to Central Africa were the bodies chiefly concerned in raising objections to certain features of the Education Ordinance as it stood.

A conference of Heads of Missions and others concerned was convened in March, which was attended by Mr. J. H. Oldham, and amendments were framed to embody the various recommendations made. In June, on the occasion of the visit of Bishop Hinsley, an informal conference considered these proposed amendments. As a result of these two conferences and the discussions of the Board of Education a new Bill was drafted and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

District School Committees had been appointed in each district of the Protectorate by the end of the year, but it had not so far been necessary to appoint any Provincial Committees.

The policy of the Government has resulted in a greater effort on the part of the missions in establishing training centres and refresher courses for the staffs of their village schools. There is, however, a continued loss of trained teachers on account of the higher wages that educated natives can command in other occupations.

The total number of certificated teachers at the end of 1928 was 599 third grade, 76 second grade, 4 first grade, and 227 honorary certificates have been issued. Ten women teachers were successful in obtaining third grade certificates.

The first buildings necessary to begin the Jeanes' Training Centre were almost completed during the year, and it is hoped that the first course will open in May, 1929, with twenty-four selected teachers attending it.

Greater attention is now being given to agricultural work in all schools, but the benefits will not be great until the teachers themselves have had the benefit of an adequate training in the subject.

The Vocational Training Committee of the Board of Education made preliminary steps in the direction of investigating the types of industrial training given throughout the Protectorate and of classifying the qualifications of the various instructors employed by the missions.

At the Livingstonia Mission and at the Church of Scotland Mission at Blantyre, attention continued to be devoted to the training of dressers and hospital assistants, and medical training is also a feature of the educational work of the Universities Mission to Central Africa.

Grants in aid of native education to the total amount of £7,842 were distributed among the various missions during the year.

In addition a sum of £600 was divided between the four schools engaged in the education of European children. Sanction was not received for the scheme of building a Government central school for European education.

X.—LAND AND SURVEY.

During the year 23 leases of Crown Land, with a total acreage of 8,410 acres, were issued, as compared with 50 leases totalling 10,403 acres in 1927. The majority were for land for the cultivation of tobacco. Four leases totalling 1,003 acres were surrendered.

No exchanges of any importance were completed during the year.

The demand for yearly tenancy agreements for plots for native trade has continued. 151 agreements were issued as against 182 in the previous year.

The falling off in the number of leases and, in a lesser degree, the number of yearly tenancy agreements may be attributed to a great extent to the depressed state of the tobacco market.

During the year 47 surveys totalling 21,227 acres were effected.

The Geological Survey Department completed the coal-boring operations near Chiromo and a final report on the work was submitted. It was shown that although coal of satisfactory commercial quality had been proved to exist, the area did not offer good prospects of development owing to the highly disturbed condition of the strata.

An economic survey of the proposed railway extension from Blantyre to Lake Nyasa was made and detailed reports were submitted on the resources of building stone and brick-clay, limestones and cement materials, and water supply.

The asbestos deposits of the southern part of Ncheu District were examined and reported upon. Many exposures were seen, but

in most cases these were very small ; in no case had the trial working gone beyond the weathered zone, but certain of the larger deposits showed promise of commercial development.

Deposits of additional minerals were also examined ; these included iron ore graphite, corundum, garnet, and spinel.

The Bwanje Valley and the Lilongwe area were visited in order to report upon questions of water supply.

Much time was devoted to the examination of rocks belonging to the crystalline series, particularly in North Nyasa and in the Port Herald Hills.

XI.—LABOUR.

Owing to the depressed state of the tobacco industry, there was a falling off in the number of natives employed in 1928.

The Public Works Department has adopted a system of providing permanent camps whenever possible for the labourers employed by them on road work, but the system has not met with much success as road construction work is still unpopular.

Rest houses have been instituted at various places for the use of native labourers travelling between their homes and their places of employment, and it is also proposed to provide such accommodation at various ports on Lake Nyasa.

It had been intended to take a census of native labour during the year, but owing to the unfavourable conditions in the country it was decided to postpone it until 1929. It will therefore be possible to give a more complete account under this heading in the report for that year.

There is no doubt that employers of labour are giving more attention than formerly to the comfort and well-being of their employees, especially in the direction of medical attention for which purposes drugs and medicines are supplied at cost price by the Government.

Where labour is employed on task work there is a general tendency for the task to decrease, owing to competition between the various employers of labour.

The practice of signing on labour under formal contract is on the decrease and the majority of the unskilled labourers are employed from month to month on what is known locally as the ticket system. The ticket is marked each day the labourer works, and the wages are paid when the month's work has been completed.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Certain legislation dealt with during the year was mentioned previously in this report. Other Ordinances of importance which were passed were :—

- (a) The Lunacy Ordinance which provided for the certification and care of lunatics and repealed the Native Lunatics Ordinance,

1913, and certain sections of the High Court Practice and Procedure Ordinance, 1906, under which such matters were previously dealt with.

(b) The Asylum Ordinance which controls the constitution and government of asylums and the discipline and terms of service of the staff.

(c) The Bankruptcy Ordinance which consolidated and amended the law relating to bankruptcy in the Protectorate.

(d) The King's African Rifles Ordinance which repealed the 1911 Ordinance as amended from time to time and provided for the constitution, duties, discipline, and government of the military forces.

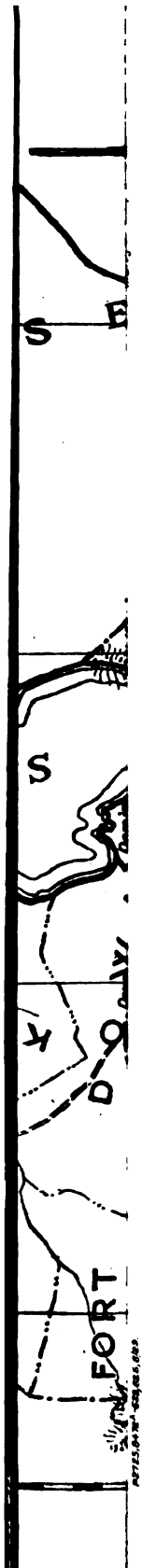


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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PREFATORY NOTE: HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE	2
I.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS	4
II.—FINANCE	7
III.—PRODUCTION	9
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS	11
V.—COMMUNICATIONS	13
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	17
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS	18
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH, ETC.	19
IX.—EDUCATION	25
X.—LANDS AND SURVEY	28
XI.—LABOUR... ..	29
XII.—MISCELLANEOUS	29

PREFATORY NOTE.

Historical, Geographical and Descriptive.

The leased territory of Weihaiwei, which has been administered by Great Britain since 1898, is situated in the north-east corner of the Chinese province of Shantung, about 40 miles (by sea) east of the treaty port of Chefoo. The area (including the Island of Liukung) extends to 285 square miles, and supports a population which at the last census (in 1921) was ascertained to be 154,177 but is now estimated at about 180,000. The increase is mainly due to the influx of refugees from other parts of the province, who having found the conditions of life intolerable under the gross misgovernment which has prevailed in Shantung during the past few years, have been glad to find peace and security and a sympathetic administration under the British flag.

The area of the territory of Weihaiwei is smaller than that of the Colony of Hong Kong (including the New Territories) by about 100 square miles; it is about 119 square miles larger than the Colony of Barbados, and has a slightly larger population; it contains a greater number of people than the Colony of Fiji and only about 30,000 less than Tasmania; it is about 58 square miles larger than the Isle of Man, with a population greater by more than 100,000.

These statistics have no reference to the much greater area (estimated at about 1,500 square miles) over which Great Britain possesses certain military rights which she has never found it necessary to exercise.

There are over 350 villages in the territory, but the only port is the former Chinese village of Ma-t'ou, now the thriving town of Port Edward, which is the administrative centre.

Although Weihaiwei is regularly visited in the summer months by the British fleet on the China station, it is not a naval base and is unfortified. The old Chinese forts (constructed under German superintendence in the last quarter of the nineteenth century), which for a few days resisted the Japanese attack in the war of 1894-95, have been dismantled.

In 1901 the leased territory, which had been administered first by naval and then by military officers, was transferred to the Colonial Office, and has since been governed (in accordance with the provisions of an Order in Council) by a civil Commissioner appointed by the Crown and directly responsible to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Adjacent to Port Edward there is a small walled town which has always remained under Chinese jurisdiction though it is completely surrounded by British-administered territory. According to the terms of the Weihaiwei Convention, that Chinese jurisdiction was made subject to, and was limited by, British naval and military requirements for the defence of the leased territory. The relations between the Chinese magistrate of the walled town and the British authorities of the territory have been almost uniformly amicable.

The language spoken by the Chinese of Weihaiwei is a dialect of northern "Mandarin" (now known as the National Language), easily intelligible to those who are acquainted with the former "Court" dialect of Peking.

The currency consists of silver dollars (Mexican, Chinese, and British) and Chinese subsidiary silver and copper coinage. The notes of the British banks operating in China are current, and are supplemented by local notes of small denomination (one-dollar and *tiao* notes representing 1,000 copper cash) issued by Chinese trading firms under the supervision and control of the local Chambers of Commerce. In their dealings with one another the people use the ordinary Chinese weights and measures, but the merchants have acquired a knowledge of British standards as well, and make use of them in their dealings with the local Government and with foreign traders.

The following Report deals with the calendar year 1928, except in respect of finance. The financial year begins on 1st April, and for statistical and other purposes it is convenient to give in the Annual Report facts and figures relating to the whole of that year. Section II, therefore, which concerns finance only, deals with the financial year ending on 31st March, 1929.

I.—General Observations.

In the last Annual Report it was observed that the year 1927 was regarded by the Chinese as one of the most disastrous Shantung had known since 1867, when the province was overrun and laid waste by the Nien Fei rebels. There was very little, if any, improvement during the greater part of 1928, when millions of the long-suffering people of Shantung continued to groan under the miseries of civil war, banditry and famine. The little territory of Weihaiwei continued to be a haven of tranquillity for numerous refugees, many of whom have announced their intention of making Weihaiwei their home as long as it remains under British rule. In the circumstances, it is not surprising that the local Chinese newspaper went so far as to describe the territory as a "Peach Garden" (*t'ao yuan*)—the Chinese equivalent of "An Earthly Paradise." One English-speaking Chinese—a prominent mining engineer and manager of a coal mine in the province of Chihli (now Ho-peï)—who built a house in Weihaiwei where his family may dwell in peace and safety while he is trying to save his coal mine from the depredations and machinations of communists and militarists, has gone a step further than the local newspaper, for he has been heard to declare that Weihaiwei is not merely a "haven" but "Heaven."

The relations between the British authorities and the local Chinese population are most friendly and harmonious. Even during the anti-British movement in China artificially stirred up by agitators acting under foreign instigation in the years 1925-26, all subversive propaganda fell on deaf ears. The people of Weihaiwei were too well acquainted, through direct personal experience, with the British Government and its methods, to give credit to the wild stories circulated elsewhere in China regarding the alleged enormities of British "imperialism." The attempts that have been made, from time to time, by professional agitators, to stimulate anti-British hate have met with complete failure.

1st July, 1928, was the thirtieth anniversary of the signing of the Weihaiwei Convention, by which the territory of Weihaiwei was leased to the British Crown. This date has recently been included in the long list of "Humiliation Days" on which the Chinese have been enjoined to demonstrate their loyalty to China and their detestation of foreign "imperialism"; but so far the inhabitants of Weihaiwei have allowed the day to pass unnoticed. Chinese patriots—or the organisers of Chinese patriotic movements—do not seem to have realised that the true cause of humiliation in connection with Weihaiwei is not the fact of the lease to Great Britain, but the fact that the inhabitants of the territory should be anxious for the British administration to be maintained. British residents in Weihaiwei and elsewhere in China would be the first to welcome any real evidence that the people of Weihaiwei were

harbouring or manifesting any genuine (apart from an artificially stimulated) desire to return to the Chinese fold ; for it would be a sure indication that the long period of anarchy in Shantung was drawing to a close and that an era of peace and decent government was about to be inaugurated. The Chinese of Weihaiwei are no less patriotic than their fellow-countrymen elsewhere, nor has the alien Government of the leased territory ever desired or attempted to quench their patriotism. It would be unreasonable to expect them—probably no Englishman in China does expect them—to prefer British to Chinese rule if under the latter they could be assured of being allowed to live under the same tranquil and orderly conditions that they have experienced for thirty years under the British flag.

There was a short period—in the early days of the British occupation—when the attitude of the people was by no means so friendly as it has since become. The recent death (on 12th April, 1927) of Brigadier Cooper Penrose, C.B., C.M.G., who as a major in the Royal Engineers was stationed in Weihaiwei in 1900, recalls a highly disagreeable episode which took place in May of that year—the year of the “Boxer” rising. Major Penrose and his little party, who were engaged in the delimitation of the frontier, observed that “the native population was sullen,” but they were taken wholly unawares when they were suddenly assailed with “sticks and large stones.” The major himself was “hit from behind with a stone and beaten with sticks while semi-conscious, and prodded with bayonets.” The episode took place not far from the market-village of Ts’ao-Miao-tzū, near the centre of the southern boundary of the territory ; and although one of the leaders of the attacking party was a prominent native of this village—a man who is still alive and has served as a headman under the present administration—there is now no village in the territory which supports the British administration more enthusiastically than Ts’ao-Miao-tzū.

Not many miles from the scene of this brutal attack on a gallant British officer, villagers of the border-districts have in more recent years erected stone tablets on which they have spontaneously borne public testimony to their gratitude for the peace and security enjoyed by them under British rule. One of the inscriptions is to the effect that during the troubles of the first year of the Republic (1912), when flames were going up from burning villages just beyond the frontier, those who had the good fortune to dwell on the British side of the border continued to enjoy uninterrupted tranquillity and safety. Similar testimonials to the benefits received from British rule have been erected by grateful refugees in Port Edward.

The economic prosperity that was referred to in the last Annual Report was maintained throughout the year under review, and the revenue was the highest in the history of the territory. This subject will be dealt with in detail in Sections II—IV. There was a serious

drought in the early part of the year, which threatened not only a total failure of crops but also a water famine. For three months—April to June—the rainfall amounted to only a quarter of an inch, and many of the village wells ran dry. Fortunately the rain which began to fall on 6th July saved the territory from disaster, though it did not come soon enough to prevent a failure of the wheat harvest.

There has been no cessation in building activity in Port Edward, which is beginning to assume the appearance of a busy and populous little town. In 1898 it consisted of two or three streets of mean hovels, and its only importance lay in the fact that it was the port of the walled town of Weihaiwei. That so-called “city”—which, as stated in the Prefatory Note, was left by treaty under Chinese jurisdiction—is completely stagnant, and is no larger than it was thirty years ago. Most of the merchants have abandoned it and have built business premises and private houses in Port Edward.

During the summer of 1928, as in the preceding year, detachments from the Shanghai Defence Force were stationed at Weihaiwei, and the military convalescent camp was fully occupied for several months. Among the troops which spent a portion of the summer in Weihaiwei were the first battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, the second battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, and the second battalion of the Welch Regiment. A company of the second battalion of the Royal Scots (the Royal Regiment) arrived early in November to take up garrison duty for the winter.

The relations between the British troops and the civilian population were, as usual, excellent. An interesting indication of this happy state of affairs was given early in the year, when the officers of “B” Company of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire battalion (which garrisoned the territory during the winter 1927–28) presented a silver cup, suitably inscribed, to the Chinese community. The cup has been placed in the hall of the local Chinese Chamber of Commerce as a permanent memorial of the friendly relationship uniformly maintained between the garrison and the Chinese residents. Not to be outdone in courtesy, the Chinese shortly afterwards reciprocated by presenting the same company with a handsome silver tripod—a product of local craftsmanship.

The British fleet on the China Station, under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Reginald Y. Tyrwhitt, Bart., K.C.B., D.S.O., D.C.L., paid its usual summer visit to Weihaiwei and there held its annual Regatta.

The King's Birthday was celebrated by a naval and military parade and march past, which was witnessed by a throng of interested Chinese spectators of whom a large proportion were schoolboys. The troops under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Tredenick, D.S.O., O.B.E., consisted of the 1st battalion of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, and the Navy was represented by

detachments from H.M.S. *Curlew*. The Commissioner was supported at the saluting base by Captain H. C. Allen, R.N. (H.M.S. *Curlew*), and Captain J. B. Glencross, D.S.O., R.N. (H.M.S. *Titania*). The same day was selected for the formal opening ceremony of a new public park at the east end of Port Edward, where the Commissioner entertained a representative gathering of foreign and Chinese residents. Special emphasis was laid by him on the fact that the park was open to all, without distinction of race or nationality.

On 5th December the new buildings of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce were formally opened by the Commissioner, who in his speech referred to the steadily increasing prosperity and commercial activity of Port Edward in recent years, of which the erection of this handsome building was a significant indication.

The introduction of motor traffic, which had hitherto been absolutely prohibited by the local Administration for various good and bad (predominantly bad) reasons, was perhaps the most notable and conspicuous innovation witnessed by Weihaiwei during 1928. There are now regular motor-bus services from one end of the territory to the other to the great convenience and satisfaction of the people; and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to travel by motor-car not only to the neighbouring Chinese towns of Wên-têng, Jung-ch'eng, and Shih-tao, but also to Mou-p'ing (Ninghai) and Chefoo.

The news of the serious illness of His Majesty the King was received in Weihaiwei with the utmost consternation and regret, and on 9th December the Commissioner, at the request of the British and Chinese community, addressed the following telegram to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:—"The Government and people of Weihaiwei, Chinese as well as British, are grateful to you for the daily telegraphic bulletins regarding His Majesty's illness, the course of which they follow with the deepest sympathy and anxiety. They desire me to convey to His Majesty through you an expression of their loyal devotion and respect and their earnest hopes for His Majesty's speedy recovery."

II.—Finance.*

The following table gives the totals of net revenue and expenditure for the six years ending with the financial year 1928-29:—

	1923-24.	1924-25.	1925-26.	1926-27.	1927-28.	1928-29.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Revenue</i> ...	198,865	189,554	219,142	240,763	256,494	324,628
<i>Expenditure</i> ...	200,566	179,944	187,432	214,331	247,014	313,228
<i>Excess of Revenue over Expenditure</i> }	—	9,610	31,710	26,432	9,480	11,400

* For the purposes of this section only, this Report deals with the financial year 1928-29, which closed on 31st March, 1929,

Although the revenue collected in the year under review fell short of the estimate by \$16,091 (the estimate was \$340,719), it was \$68,134 more than that collected in 1927-28 and was by far the highest in the history of the territory. The increase was not due only to the expansion of trade, but also to a revised scale of shipping dues, the adoption of improved methods of supervising and collecting taxes, and the removal of the embargo on motor traffic. Licences for motor-vehicles, motor drivers and garages were issued in 1928 for the first time. The revenue would have exceeded the estimate had it not been for the serious effects of a very severe drought in the early summer of 1928, the continuance of civil war and political uncertainties, an unforeseen slump in the groundnut trade, and the unrest and poverty which prevailed throughout the year in the districts bordering on the territory.

The following figures show the difference between the estimated and the actual revenue for 1928-29 under the four main heads :—

	<i>Estimated Revenue for 1928-29.</i>	<i>Actual Revenue for 1928-29.</i>	<i>Difference between Actual and Estimated Revenue.</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Licences and Internal Revenue	292,819	274,763	—18,056
Fees of Court, etc. ...	23,600	27,146	+ 3,546
Rents of Government Property, etc.	10,000	9,939	— 61
Interest and Miscellaneous ...	14,300	12,780	— 1,520
Totals ...	340,719	324,628	—16,091

In addition to general revenue there are special assessments or surtaxes on shipping dues and land tax for harbour improvements and educational purposes. The shipping dues surtax in 1928-29 amounted to \$15,867 and the educational surtax to \$2,464. Thus the gross revenue collected by Government during the financial year 1928-29 amounted to \$342,959.

It is estimated that the revenue for 1929-30, irrespective of the special assessments, will reach \$355,215 ; but it has to be borne in mind that owing to the chaotic state of the province of Shantung, the absence of a settled and stable Government, the ever-present possibility of a renewal of civil war, and other causes which can hardly be taken into consideration when the estimates are being prepared, no attempt to forecast the actual revenue of the territory can be regarded as much better than guesswork. Meanwhile it is satisfactory to note that the public revenue of the territory has increased from \$4,077 in 1900-01 to \$324,628 in 1928-29. There is no public debt.

For nearly twenty years of the British administration it was necessary to supplement the local revenue with an Imperial grant-in-aid. The total amount spent by His Majesty's Government in such grants reached the equivalent of £144,500. The first year in respect of which no grant was found to be necessary was 1916-17. Further grants were required in the three following years, but since 1921-22 the territory has been wholly self-supporting, and in 1928 the sum of \$61,311, representing the unexpended portion of an Imperial grant which improved financial conditions had rendered unnecessary, was refunded to His Majesty's Treasury.

III.—Production.

(A) AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is the principal industry in the territory and is engaged in by all but a small fraction of the population. Owing to the lack of capital and the small size of the holdings, farming methods and implements are still of a primitive description, but the acre-yield is very large and in intensive cultivation the local Chinese have little to learn from the West. The great majority of the cultivators are peasant-proprietors and have tilled their farms for generations. The principal crops are wheat, millet, barley, maize, kaoliang (tall millet), sweet potatoes, beans, and groundnuts.

As nearly the whole population of the territory is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture for a living, the economic effects of the drought of 1928 (to which references are made elsewhere in this Report) were somewhat serious, though much less so than they would have been twenty years ago, when the people were still miserably poor and had no reserves to carry them over a lean year.

(B) FORESTRY.

Though there is a serious lack of timber in the territory, and wood for building purposes has to be imported, the Government has been unable to initiate or carry out any comprehensive scheme of forestation. Nevertheless the appearance of the island (where official control is much more easily exercised than on the mainland) has been transformed out of all recognition by the fir plantations with which the former bleak and barren hill-slopes are now covered.

(C) SERICULTURE.

In Weihaiwei the silk industry is an adjunct to agriculture. Most of the small farmers have "common" grazing or other rights over tracts of hill-land. Large parts of these tracts have been covered with scrub-oak (*quercus serrata*), on the leaves of which the wild silk-worm is fed. Probably 100,000 acres of hill-land in the territory have been devoted to this useful purpose. Lack of the capital necessary for the establishment of filatures has hitherto prevented the farmers from taking more than a very modest share in the actual manufacture of silk, hence most of the cocoons still find their way to Chefoo.

Wei-hai-wei is already benefiting to some extent, and should benefit still more greatly hereafter, from the admirable work done for the silk industry of the province by the Chefoo Silk Improvement Commission. Some facts relating to this subject appeared in the Report for 1927. A British Consular Report (dated January, 1928) observes that "the continued work of the Commission is bound eventually to have the same effect as had the assistance given and efforts expended in Egypt in the wonderfully increased and improved quantity and quality of the fine staple cotton."

(D) FISHERIES.

Wei-hai-wei is gradually establishing a high reputation for its fish, and the industry is likely to show a marked development during the next few years owing to the introduction of motor fishing-boats. "Chefoo prawns"—greatly appreciated by Europeans and Chinese alike—might just as well be described as "Wei-hai-wei prawns," for they appear in great abundance in the Wei-hai-wei fish market during several months in the year, and Wei-hai-wei residents are by no means dependent on Chefoo for their supplies.

A recent and rather remarkable increase in the revenue derived from the sale of *bêche-de-mer* licences shows that the waters of Wei-hai-wei can be made to yield large quantities of this favourite Chinese table delicacy. The *bêche-de-mer*—less agreeably known as the sea-slug—is taken from submerged rocks along the coast, and some of the more enterprising Chinese fishermen now engage in this branch of their industry by walking about on the floor of the sea clad in Western diving dresses, collecting their prey in a more leisurely and successful manner than was possible under the more primitive conditions of a few years ago.

(E) MINING.

Since the abandonment of the gold-mine, to which reference was made in the Report for 1927, no mining operations have been attempted in the territory. Very few prospecting licences for minerals have been applied for during the past twenty years.

(F) SALT.

The amount of salt produced by evaporation in the lagoons along the coast of the territory has greatly increased in recent years. There are now 361 salt-pans, covering an area of nearly 1,000 acres. The area devoted to this industry has increased about thirtyfold since 1902. The amount of salt produced in excess of local needs varies from year to year, and is sometimes as much as 70 per cent. As salt cannot be shipped to Chinese ports owing to Chinese restrictions (salt in China being a Government monopoly), the surplus stocks of Wei-hai-wei are exported mainly to Hong Kong and Japanese

ports. During 1928 the export of Weihaiwei salt to the latter was reduced to very small dimensions owing to the competition of salt produced under Japanese superintendence in Chosen. The total exports amounted to 53,744 piculs, which exceeded the 1927 total by 6,846 piculs. A stock of 185,000 piculs (including 100,000 piculs stored at the salt pans) was awaiting export at the end of 1928, and is not likely to be disposed of until better prices are offered than rule at the present time.

The record year for salt exports from Weihaiwei was 1923, when 724,832 piculs were exported.

(G) LACE-MAKING.

This continues to be a thriving minor industry in the leased territory and gives employment to large numbers of women and girls.

(H) BRICKS AND TILES AND THE BUILDING TRADE.

The manufacture of bricks and tiles has recently become a very flourishing industry owing to the rapid extension of the town of Port Edward. Building is unfortunately more expensive than it should be, owing to the lack of a local timber supply. Most of the timber used for building purposes is imported from Antung in Manchuria; and local builders are complaining that, if the prices of this Manchurian timber—for which there is a great demand on the coast of China—continue to rise, they will be obliged to look to the Pacific states of America for their future supplies.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

1,017 merchant steamers with a total tonnage of 1,140,140 called at Port Edward during 1928, as compared with 858 steamers with a tonnage of 1,029,478 in 1927. Of the steamers entering the port, 456 were British, 391 Japanese, 150 Chinese, 10 American, 6 Dutch, and 2 Norwegian. Germany and Denmark were represented by one each.

There is a considerable junk trade with other Chinese ports. Inward junks numbered 1,752 and outward 646, as compared with 1,670 and 452 in 1927.

Although Weihaiwei has no claim to be a great port, its shipping is estimated to have increased about tenfold during the British occupation. In 1902 (the first year for which accurate records are available) only 146 steamers with a tonnage of 151,809 entered the port. Shipping dues (that is, harbour dues on steamers and junks and on inward and outward cargoes) have risen from \$1,067 in 1903 to \$144,426 in 1928, and for some years past these dues have constituted by far the largest single item in the revenue of the territory.

The total volume of trade in 1928 amounted to 1,525,899 units, valued at \$19,744,543, as compared with 1,691,843 units, and \$17,650,100 in 1927.

The total volume of imports was valued at \$13,955,100, as compared with \$11,182,989 in 1927; and exports at \$5,789,442, as compared with \$6,467,112. The excess value of imports over exports during 1928 was therefore \$8,165,658, as compared with \$4,715,877 in 1927.

Exports consist mainly of agricultural produce, more especially groundnuts. The reduced value of exports in 1928 as compared with those of 1927 is accounted for by the fact that the groundnut trade in 1927 suffered from the effects of several unforeseen circumstances. These included a reduced demand from Europe for the Shantung product (perhaps due in part to the growing competition of India and other countries now producing and exporting groundnuts), the rumours of a heavy import duty to be imposed on Asiatic groundnuts by the United States of America (a matter which will be dealt with more appropriately in the Report for 1929), and the disastrous results of a serious drought. The drought caused the groundnut crop to be unusually late in maturing, and the heavy rains of the latter part of the year injured a portion of the crop to such an extent that it was rejected as unsuitable for export.

The large discrepancy between the value of exports and imports is due to the fact that while exports are mainly agricultural produce from Weihaiwei itself and a limited area adjoining it, imports are largely sent into the interior of the province and find their way to distant inland markets. Large quantities of cotton yarn and piece goods are shipped from Japan, direct or through Dairen, and considerable shipments of sugar, rice, and paper come from Hong Kong. Most of these goods are transmitted to the interior of Shantung and Chihli.

The movement of merchandise is shown in the following summary :

	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Net Imports.</i>	<i>Net Exports.</i>	<i>Increase or Decrease on 1927.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Bean Cakes and Oil ...	249,330	5,151	244,179	—	— 148,841
Cigarettes and Tobacco	470,016	180,952	289,064	—	— 130,781
Coal	182,140	7,574	174,566	—	+ 18,489
Cotton, raw and yarn ...	1,951,950	73,940	1,878,010	—	+ 553,415
Flour	620,869	20,087	600,782	—	+ 245,801
Piece Goods	3,507,280	261,020	3,246,260	—	+ 1,039,860
Gunny Bags	112,115	13,600	98,515	—	— 80,885
Paper	164,748	44,570	120,178	—	— 27,271
Provisions	353,060	4,900	348,160	—	+ 178,925
Rice	757,991	85,189	672,802	—	— 155,418
Sugar and Sugar-Canes	731,948	357,798	374,150	—	+ 147,242
Timber	135,140	11,240	123,900	—	+ 71,027
Wines, foreign and Chinese.	441,525	13,620	427,905	—	— 52,146
Eggs	7,139	93,203	—	86,064	— 15,708
Fish, salt and dried ...	404,625	316,470	88,155	—	+ 117,815
Groundnuts and kernels	343,368	3,134,894	—	2,791,526	— 834,932
Groundnut Oil	145,455	238,101	—	82,646	— 244,522
Sassons	17,040	67,360	—	50,320	+ 6,370

Country markets are held at several villages in the territory, generally at 5-day intervals. Some years ago, when conditions in Shantung were more peaceful, the principal country markets in the Wên-têng and Jung-ch'eng districts (adjoining and formerly including the leased territory) were situated on the Chinese side of the border. At that time only two or three markets were regularly held in the territory. In recent years several of the markets on the Chinese side have been discontinued owing to the continual depredation of bandits and extortionate tax-collectors (many of the latter owing their appointments solely to themselves), and there are now nine markets in the leased territory. They are held at the villages of Ku-shan-hou, T'un Hou-chia, Fêng-lin, P'o Yü-chia, Pei-chiang-hsi, Ts'ao-miao-tzü, Hsiao Yen-t'an, Yang-t'ing, and Ch'iao-t'ou. All but the first three of these are situated near the border, and are largely patronised by and exist for the benefit of the inhabitants of the adjacent Chinese districts. There is also a long-established market in Weihaiwei walled city, but most of the commercial and industrial activity of that small and decaying town has passed to the much more prosperous town of Port Edward, the headquarters of the British administration.

V.—Communications.

As stated in the Report for 1927, the development of the territory has been hampered by inadequate means of internal communication. Before the British came to Weihaiwei, the people were obliged to content themselves with narrow tracks leading tortuously from village to village. Wheeled vehicles of all kinds—except old-fashioned wheelbarrows—were practically unknown. Agricultural produce was carried to market on the backs of mules and donkeys. The popular means of conveyance for elderly persons or women (who owing to the barbarous custom of footbinding were unable to walk long distances) was the *shan-tzu*—a mat-covered litter carried on two stout poles, like a sedan chair, between two mules. Shortly after the inauguration of British rule, a few roads were constructed, but lack of adequate financial resources made it impossible to carry out the work on a scale commensurate with the real needs of the territory. In 1902 there were about 23 miles of mud roads, and a few years later there were two metalled main roads, one towards the western boundary, about 11 miles long, but ending in a mud-flat two miles from the boundary stone, the other in a southerly direction ending at the village of Yeh-k'ou, in the middle of the territory, about 13 miles from Port Edward. The next roads to be constructed were a short one of about two miles from Port Edward to what is known as the First Lagoon, and a branch road from Sung-chia-wa (on the Yeh-k'ou road) to Wên-ch'uan-t'ang, a place which in 1906 became the administrative centre of what was known as the Southern Division.

The mere maintenance of these roads taxed the exiguous resources of the Government so severely that no further extensions could be carried out ; but by this time the inhabitants of the territory had awakened to a full appreciation of the new metalled roads, and one public-spirited headman (the descendant of a Governor of Shansi) induced the inhabitants of the eastern section of the territory to collaborate with him in extending the Wên-ch'uan-t'ang road to the village of Mêng-chia-chuang, a distance of seven miles. This road and subsequently a few other roads in the same part of the territory were constructed mainly at the expense of the villagers themselves, but the Government assisted them with a small annual subsidy and also gave them the necessary technical advice. There are now about fifty miles of roads available for farmers' carts and other wheeled vehicles.

In 1928 the local Government asked for and obtained the consent of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to construct a new road across the northern peninsular portion of the territory to link up the two existing coast roads. Up to that time the eastern and western sections of the northern part of the territory had been separated by a range of hills impracticable for even the rudest type of village cart. The need of a good road to join these separated portions of the territory had been obvious for more than twenty years, but financial obstacles had necessitated the indefinite postponement of a work of which the urgent necessity was fully recognised by both Government and people. For the preliminary survey, carried out during the summer of the year under review, the Government is indebted to Lieutenant N. Wilson, Royal Engineers, who at the invitation of the Government readily undertook the work and carried it out with complete success. The road is now being constructed in accordance with Lieutenant Wilson's plans and will probably be opened to traffic in June, 1929. It will be a "model" road, and the first to be constructed with a definite view to the requirements of motor traffic.

It has already been stated in this Report that motor traffic was absolutely prohibited in this territory till 1928, the main reasons given for the prohibition being that the roads were too narrow, that the bridges were insecure, that the road surfaces would be so torn up as to involve the Government in prohibitive costs for maintenance and repair, that the lethargic and sometimes somnolent village wayfarers would be the victims of innumerable accidents, and that the local mules and donkeys would be so terrified that they would precipitate their riders—mainly women and girls—into yawning ditches. In the summer of 1927 the advent of detachments of the Shanghai Defence Force and the opening of a military convalescent camp made it necessary for the Government to authorise the importation, for military use only, of a few motor-trucks and ambulances. As none of the disastrous results, so long predicted,

followed the introduction of these vehicles, it was decided in 1928 to abolish the long-standing prohibition of motor traffic in the territory and to allow a limited number of motor-buses and public and private cars to be imported for the use and convenience of the general public. The introduction of these vehicles has been heartily welcomed by the people and will undoubtedly promote the development of the territory to no small extent.

On the occasion of the opening of the new buildings of the Chamber of Commerce on 5th December, 1928, the Commissioner drew attention to the advent of motor traffic in the following words :—

“Very strict rules have had to be made, and will have to be enforced, regulating the traffic now that it has been introduced, not only in the interests of the persons who may drive and use motor vehicles but also—and I regard this as much more important—in the interests of the immense majority who will seldom or never use motor-cars and for whose benefit the existing roads were originally constructed. In all countries into which motor traffic has been introduced, it has been remarked that persons who drive motor-cars are apt to assume that the roads are primarily for their benefit and that pedestrians may only use them on sufferance and must on no account get in the way or hinder the progress of motor vehicles. Accidents due to carelessness, and sometimes I am afraid to callousness, on the part of the drivers of motor-cars are therefore very frequent, and the sufferers are generally the simple folk who cannot afford motor-cars and whose convenience and safety are too often ignored. Now I am particularly anxious that no such reproaches should be made against those who operate motor-cars in this territory. I want them to remember at all times that they are not the owners of the roads. The roads are the property of the public, not that of a small class of motor-car owners or drivers. In fact I might go further and say that as far as Weihaiwei is concerned the real owners of the roads are the farmers, for it is they who have been taxed for the purpose of the construction and upkeep of the roads. Our roads were built and have been maintained out of the land tax, and the land tax, as you know, is not paid by the merchants but by the tillers of the soil, most of whom are very poor. In this territory motor-car owners and drivers must regard themselves as guests on our roads, and they must therefore pay very special respect to the interests and convenience of their hosts. Meanwhile the Government will do what it can to improve the existing roads and to extend the road system as far as its means permit.”

(B) TELEPHONES AND TELEGRAPHS.

Until 1928 there was no telephonic communication with any part of the territory outside Port Edward and the island. The lack of telephones greatly hampered and still hampers administrative work and makes the labours of the police much more arduous than they

would be if all the police posts in the outlying districts (13 in number during 1928) were connected by telephone with headquarters. Representations on this subject were made to the Secretary of State during 1927 and 1928, with the result that the local Government was authorised to extend the telephone system, by degrees, to the outlying parts of the territory. Before the end of the year under review the extensions to the police-posts of T'ien-ts'un (five miles to the west) and Ch'ang-fêng (six miles to the south) had been completed, and it is hoped during 1929 to extend the system to Lu-tao-k'ou on the western boundary and possibly (if funds permit) to Liu-lin-tzu and Wên-ch'uan-t'ang in the heart of the territory.

For ordinary telegraphic communication with the outside world Weihaiwei is dependent on a Chinese-owned land-line to Chefoo; but there is also a temporary wireless installation erected in 1927 by the military authorities. The British-owned sea-cable from Weihaiwei to Chefoo, though still in existence and serviceable, has not been in use since 1923.

(C) STEAMSHIP COMMUNICATIONS.

Steamship communication with Shanghai and Tientsin is regular and frequent, services of passenger and cargo steamers being maintained by the British firms of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company. There is also fairly frequent but irregular steamship communication with other ports, such as Hong Kong, Tsingtao, Chefoo, and Dairen. The port is also occasionally visited by ocean-going steamers plying between China and various American and European ports.

(D) LIGHTHOUSES.

There are two lighthouses in the territory which were originally the property of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service and were bought by the British Government in 1901 for the cost price of their construction. The cost of maintenance and the wages of the staff (which is exclusively Chinese) are paid by the Weihaiwei Government.

(E) POSTS.

There are agencies of the Hong Kong Post Office at Port Edward and on the island, and the stamps used are Hong Kong stamps surcharged "China." Foreign mails are carried by the shipping firm of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire in accordance with the terms of their mail contract with the Government of the leased territory. Communication with Europe is by the Suez and Siberian routes. Letters from London to Weihaiwei by the sea route take on an average about 40 days in transit, those despatched by the Siberian route about 16 to 22 days. The Chinese Postal Administration has a branch in the walled city of Weihaiwei which usefully supplements the postal services conducted through the British Office.

VI.—Justice, Police, and Prisons.

(A) CIVIL AND CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

The judicial system and procedure of Weihaiwei are laid down in the Weihaiwei Order in Council, 1901. Civil and criminal jurisdiction is vested in the High Court, the Judge of which is appointed under His Majesty's Sign Manual. As the Judge is non-resident, and rarely visits Weihaiwei, the powers of a Judge of the High Court are vested in the Commissioner. The Magistrates, of whom there are two, are also empowered, under the Order in Council, to exercise the delegated powers of the High Court in the majority of cases, both civil and criminal. In civil suits between Chinese, the Courts follow Chinese law and custom so far as they are not repugnant to British conceptions of morality and justice.

The number of civil suits commenced during 1928 was 279, as compared with 281 in 1927 and 239 in 1926. Three of these cases were heard by the Judge of the High Court (Sir Peter Grain), one by the Commissioner sitting as Judge, the remainder by the Senior Magistrate.

Criminal and police cases numbered 646 as compared with 998 in 1927. The decrease is accounted for by a large reduction in the number of gambling offences brought before the Court and a diminution in the number of cases connected with opium. The total number of persons convicted was 1,481, of whom 183 were imprisoned and 1,283 fined. Serious crime, which used to be very rare in this territory, has been growing more prevalent in recent years, mainly owing to the influx of undesirable characters from Chinese territory. This influx is in itself one of the many unfortunate results of the prevalence, in this province, of banditry, civil war, and continual political and social restlessness. Murders were four in number (one murderer was convicted and hanged in 1928), and the cases of armed highway robbery, burglary, and similar offences were somewhat numerous. 15 of the more serious cases were dealt with by the Commissioner sitting as Judge.

In one of the murder cases the victim was a Chinese member of the Police Force, who in December was shot and mortally wounded by an armed robber whom the constable had pursued and courageously tackled. Fortunately the murderer was captured by other members of the Force who had also engaged in the pursuit. His trial did not take place within the year under review, but it may be mentioned here that he was duly convicted and executed. The dead constable received a public funeral which was attended by the Commissioner in person and by other officers of the Government. A contingent of British troops (the Royal Scots) also accompanied the funeral procession to the grave—an act of courtesy which was deeply appreciated by the police force and by the Chinese community. Some days later a memorial ceremony (arranged by the

Chinese of Port Edward) was held on the Parade Ground and also attended by the Commissioner and other officials. The dead man's dependants have been amply provided for out of funds raised by public subscription.

(B) LEGISLATION.

Legislative authority is vested in the Commissioner, but Ordinances enacted by him are subject to disallowance by the King acting on the advice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Ordinances enacted in 1928 were three in number, and provided for certain amendments in the Arms and Ammunition Ordinance of 1906, the Gambling Ordinance of 1906, and the Opium Ordinance of 1909.

(C) POLICE.

The Police Force at the end of 1928 consisted of three European Inspectors, 21 Chinese non-commissioned officers and 168 men. One Inspector (who is also Superintendent of the Gaol) and 20 Chinese police (including 9 prison warders) are stationed on the Island of Liukung, and an Inspector and 80 Chinese at Port Edward. The remainder of the force is distributed among 15 posts (two recently established) in the interior and on the boundary, under the supervision of the Territory Inspector.

The pay of the Police was considerably increased in 1928, and this removed a source of discontent which during recent years had proved somewhat detrimental to discipline and smartness. A reference to this subject was made in the Report for 1927. During 1928 the conduct of the Police showed a marked improvement.

(D) PRISONS.

The Weihaiwei prison is situated on the Island of Liukung and has accommodation for 70 male and 20 female prisoners. The increase of crime in recent years has caused attention to be drawn to the fact that the prison is frequently overcrowded, and the question of providing additional accommodation is one which may have to be considered in the near future. There is also a small prison with seven cells in Port Edward, but this is intended for short-sentence prisoners only.

On 12th October four convicts escaped from the island gaol and made their way to the mainland. Three of these were subsequently recaptured by the Police.

VII.—Public Works.

The fact that Weihaiwei is obliged to confine its expenditure within the limits of its local revenue explains the inability of the Government to undertake the construction of several much-needed public works. Incidentally it also accounts for the non-existence of a public debt. Most of the money available for use under the

head of Public Works goes to the upkeep of existing roads, bridges, the drainage system of Port Edward, and public buildings. It was found possible, however, to provide in the 1927-28 Estimates for the construction of a new road across the northern peninsular portion of the territory. This very important work—the necessity for which has been obvious to the Government for the past twenty years—is referred to in Section V (A) of this Report.

No other important new work was undertaken during the year under review, though considerable sums were spent on widening bridges and making other improvements to the existing roads necessitated by the introduction of motor traffic. There are in existence approved schemes for harbour improvement, including the building of a breakwater, and the construction of a small pier and a sea-wall to meet the needs of the new commercial area of Port Edward that is being rapidly developed to the south and east of the walled city. Funds for these projects are being gradually accumulated by means of a surtax on shipping dues. At the end of the financial year 1928-29 this fund amounted to \$59,631; and it is possible that a portion of this may be devoted, during the next two years, to the second of these two schemes.

VIII.—Public Health, etc.

(A) PUBLIC HEALTH.

Weihaiwei fully maintained, during 1928, its excellent reputation as one of the healthiest spots on the Asiatic Pacific coast. As regards the foreign community, it seems unnecessary to say more than that there was only one death, which resulted from drowning. The Chinese population suffered during the spring and summer from a rather severe epidemic of diphtheria and slight outbreaks of scarlet fever and measles. The Medical Officers trace these epidemics to the fact that during the year under review Weihaiwei was the resort of many half-starved refugees from other parts of the province, some of whom were either suffering from disease when they entered the territory or through privation and debility became easy victims to such causes of infection as existed locally.

There are three Government hospitals in the territory. The largest of them (under the direct superintendence of the British Medical Officers of the Government) is in Port Edward; the second is on the Island of Liukung, where there is a Western-trained Chinese doctor under the supervision of the resident Surgeon-Commander in charge of the Royal Naval Sick Quarters, who holds the additional post of Medical Officer for the island, under the civil Administration; the third is at Wên-ch'uan-t'ang, in the heart of the territory, 13 miles from Port Edward, which is also in charge of a Western-trained Chinese doctor under European supervision.

The total number of patients attending the three hospitals in 1928 was 20,311. This exceeded the number treated in 1927 by 1,698.

With regard to the locally prevalent disease of kala-azar, the Medical Officers report as follows :—

“ Eighty cases were under treatment during the year and they received 1,830 injections ; antimony tartrate is given intravenously in the majority of the cases, but in young children stibosan is used intramuscularly with good results. Sixty-four new cases were diagnosed but only forty-eight returned for regular treatment ; injections were given twice a week. The rapid increase in the number of injections indicates the popularity (and success) of the treatment and the faith of the patients in its efficacy, the figures being 796 in 1926, 1,397 in 1927, and 1,830 in 1928.”

81 suicides were reported during 1928. As is invariably the case in Weihaiwei, and probably in China generally, the number of female exceeded the number of male suicides, the figures being 45 and 36 respectively.

(B) MILITARY CONVALESCENT CAMP.

For the second consecutive year the territory was used for the purposes of a convalescent camp of 50 beds for the Shanghai Defence Force. Full use was made of this camp during the summer months of 1928, with highly beneficial results.

(C) SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

A small sanatorium for the treatment of Chinese cases of tuberculosis—a somewhat prevalent disease in this territory—was established in 1928 near the seashore, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south of Port Edward.

(D) HOSPITAL EXTENSION.

A new ward for Chinese paying-patients was added to the Port Edward Hospital. Furniture for the ward was generously presented by Mr. Li Yi-chih, Chairman of the local Chamber of Commerce. The first patient to avail himself of this ward was a Chinese General, who, after defeat in a local civil war, became a refugee in Weihaiwei.

For the first time in the history of the territory, provision was made during 1928 for European patients, by the addition of a ward of two beds to the Port Edward Hospital. Accommodation for Europeans in the small adjacent infectious diseases hospital was also made available by the enlargement of the existing premises.

(E) LEPROSY.

Special interest attaches to the efforts made to deal with cases of leprosy in the territory, by the adoption of the new treatment with Alepol (intravenous hydriocarpate injections) which has led to such remarkably beneficial results in other parts of the world where this disease—till recently regarded as incurable—is prevalent. The actual number of lepers in this territory is not great—official enquiries reveal a total of about 70— but it will be a source of great satisfaction to the Government if the results of the new treatment justify the hope that at no distant date this terrible disease may be declared to be non-existent in this territory.* The Government of Weihaiwei has taken note of a speech delivered by the Prince of Wales in 1924, in which His Royal Highness predicted the ultimate elimination of leprosy from the British Empire. The attainment of this object was described by him as “a wonderful ideal alike for British medical science and for British administration.” Although Weihaiwei is not an integral part of the British Empire it has been under British administration for thirty years, and it would have been most regrettable if, before the rendition of the territory to China, no steps had been taken to make an effort to eradicate the disease by means of the best curative methods made available by recent research in the West.

Writing on the new treatment in “Leprosy Notes” (October, 1928), Dr. R. G. Cochrane, Medical Adviser to the Mission to Lepers, says: “The present day treatment of leprosy is full of hope, and physicians have in their hands remedies which will cause the subsidence of the disease in the great majority of cases; therefore the hope of ridding the Empire of leprosy is a legitimate and practical one.” Similarly, Dr. C. F. Birkenstock in the same periodical says, with special reference to leprosy in Central Africa, that “on the whole the results are very gratifying, and promise every likelihood of the permanent eradication of leprosy.”

In Weihaiwei the new treatment is freely administered to all lepers who submit themselves voluntarily to the doctor's hands. At the close of 1928 there were fifteen patients undergoing regular treatment, and in several of these cases a marked improvement has already been noticed. The number of patients is likely to increase rapidly as soon as the glad news reaches other sufferers that the treatment is productive of good results.

An interesting Report on the subject of leprosy in Weihaiwei, including an account of the results so far obtained, was submitted to the Government by the Senior Medical Officer (Dr. Francis Clark) shortly after the close of the year under review, and has been transmitted to the Secretary of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, by whom it will doubtless in due course be published.

* According to the “Leper Quarterly” (November, 1928) there is “a leper population (in China) of one million, of which two thirds are supposed to be distributed in the provinces of Kwangsi and Fukkien.”

(F) WATER SUPPLY.

The rainfall during the first half of the year was much below the average, being only 3.7 inches. The drought was the cause of the almost total failure of the wheat crop, and also gave rise to some anxiety with regard to the water supply, which is derived from shallow wells. Several additional wells were sunk by Government in the Port Edward area and fitted with pumps; and fears of a water famine were dissipated by the copious rains which began to fall in July. The rapid increase in the population of Port Edward renders the question of the provision of an adequate water supply a somewhat pressing one, for which a solution must be found in the near future.

(G) THERMAL SPRINGS.

There are two thermal springs in the leased territory. The best-known is that situated outside the East Gate of the walled city, on the outskirts of Port Edward, where bath-houses were erected many years ago and are still in daily use. An analysis of the water was made in 1902 by the Hong Kong Government Analyst, and was as follows:—

70,000 fluid parts (1 gallon=70,000 grains) contain:—

Sodium Sulphide ...	...	...	...	...	2.6
Sodium Sulphite ...	...	...	...	...	2.9
Sodium Sulphate ...	...	...	...	...	23.1
Sodium Chloride ...	...	...	...	...	833.6
Potassium Chloride ...	...	...	...	...	11.9
Magnesium Chloride ...	...	...	...	...	17.1
Calcium Chloride ...	...	...	...	...	314.9
Calcium Carbonate ...	...	...	...	...	14.0
Alumina and Iron peroxide ...	...	...	...	...	.4
Silica ...	...	...	...	...	9.5

Parts by weight	...	...	...	...	1,230.1
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The Analyst added that "this is a natural sulphur spring water, containing substance of high remedial value." Though he did not specify what ailments were likely to yield to treatment by the water, it is understood that sufferers from rheumatism have derived some benefit from the baths. The Analyst's opinion was indeed corroborated by that of the Principal Civil Medical Officer of Hong Kong, who stated that the water was "likely to be useful as an alternative and for rheumatic complaints." It appears, however, that the constituents of the water are not constant, for a much more recent analysis (made by the Port Arthur College of Engineering) of another sample taken from the same hot spring in 1928 shows that no sulphides or sulphites were present. The Senior Medical Officer

(Dr. F. Clark) observes that "possibly their presence is intermittent as there is certainly an odour of sulphureous gases present at times in the effluent from the baths." The analysis is as follows :—

<i>Constituents.</i>				<i>Gram per Litre.</i>
Common salt...	...	...	(NaCl)	1.450
Silica ...	...	...	(SiO ₂)	0.0095
Calcium bicarbonate	...	...	(Ca(HCO ₃) ₂)	0.405
Calcium Chloride	...	...	(CaCl ₂)	0.178
Calcium Sulphate	...	...	(CaSO ₄)	0.029
Magnesium Sulphate	...	...	(MgSO ₄)	0.025
				2.097
Calcium Oxide	...	...	(CaO)	0.241

The second of the two thermal springs is situated in the heart of the territory, about 13 miles from Port Edward. It rises in the bed of a small stream, close to the village of Wên-ch'uan-t'ang. The village owes its name to the spring, for it means "Warm Spring Bath." Where the stream is swollen by heavy rains the spring is temporarily submerged, and the neighbouring villagers are deprived of their hot baths; but for at least nine months in the year the stream is a mere rivulet which leaves the warm spring untouched. No bath-houses have been erected over the spring, but the male residents of the surrounding villages may be seen bathing in the warm pools at all hours and throughout all seasons. The local explanation of the phenomenon is that an ancient dame who lives somewhere in the depths of the earth devotes herself to the useful task of tending a subterranean furnace which keeps the water permanently hot. In recognition of the unselfish labour undertaken by her for their benefit, representatives from the villages come forth on Chinese New Year's Day, dressed in their best, and kneel on the sands beside the warm pools. There they salute the venerable lady with a threefold *kotow*.

No analysis of the waters of this hot spring was obtained until 1928, when Mr. F. G. C. Walker, Analyst to the Shanghai Municipality, undertook an examination of the water at the request of the Government. His report, dated December 6th, is as follows :—

"The sample was taken at 4 p.m. on 2nd November from a shallow pool 6 to 7 feet in diameter and about 6 inches in depth. This pool, with other small pools, lay in the sandy bed of a stream which was practically dry and in which there was no visible current or influx of surface water. The sand in and surrounding the pool showed no sign of any incrustation or deposited solid and the water appeared almost clear. The temperature of the water could not be definitely ascertained but it was that of a moderately hot bath, say about 100° to 105° F., the sand at the bottom of the pool being hotter

to the touch than the water. The sand was quiescent, no movement due to rising steam or gases being evident. No odour was noticeable.

“ On arrival at the laboratory a dark brown coloured deposit had separated from the water. This deposit contained oxides of iron and manganese.

“ The total mineral content of the water (including the deposited oxides) is 1.30 grams per litre (91 grains per gallon). The detailed mineral composition is given below, the salts shown representing the most probable combinations of the acidic and basic radicles found by analysis.

Mineral Content of Thermal Water.

		Parts per million.	Grains per = gallon.
Calcium Carbonate	... (CaCO ₃)	153.5	10.75
Magnesium Sulphate	... (MgSO ₄)	30.2	2.11
Sodium Sulphate	... (Na ₂ SO ₄)	198.8	13.92
Sodium Chloride	... (NaCl)	759.5	53.16
Potassium Chloride	... (KCl)	41.4	2.90
Potassium Nitrate	... (KNO ₃)	3.0	0.21
Silica	... (SiO ₂)	90.0	6.30
Alumina	... (Al ₂ O ₃)	1.6	0.11
Iron Oxide	... (Fe ₂ O ₃)	15.5	1.08
Manganese Oxide	... (Mn ₂ O ₃)	1.0	0.07
Traces of organic matter, ammonium salts, etc.,		11.0	0.77
		1305.5	91.38

“ The calcium carbonate is in solution in the water as bicarbonate and the iron and manganese are also probably originally present in the form of soluble bicarbonates and are thrown out of solution in the form of hydrated oxides on aeration.

“ The water is not highly mineralised and is neither acidic nor alkaline in character. Neither is it a sulphur water. It is more of a saline water, the chief mineral constituent being sodium chloride (salt) and the other mineral components being those normally present in spring water. It is slightly ferruginous.”

The Government Medical Officers are of opinion that judging from this analysis the water contains little or nothing of any remedial value, though one of them expresses the belief that “ were Wên-ch'uan-t'ang in Europe it would become a fashionable spa and the water would be bottled and sold at fancy prices.”

(H) METEOROLOGICAL.

The total rainfall for the year was 22.33 inches, distributed over 61 days. Less than 4 inches fell during the first six months. The normal yearly average is about 27 inches.

It was mentioned in the Report for 1927 that the highest shade temperature registered in that year was 101° F., which constituted a record for Weihaiwei since observations began to be taken. This record was beaten in 1928, for the highest temperature registered in that year was 105° F. on 2nd July. The lowest temperature for the year was 11° F. recorded on 13th January and 7th February. The lowest temperature in the history of the leased territory was 1° F., recorded in 1913.

The highest barometer reading was 30.72 in December and the lowest 29.03 in September, the monthly range varying from 1.22 in September to 0.52 in June.

(I) POPULATION.

The last Census was taken in 1921, when the population of the territory was found to number 154,416. The present population is roughly estimated at 180,000. This includes the foreign community, who during the winter months (when their numbers are reduced to a minimum) are about 100. About 72 per cent. of the foreigners are British. Some of the remainder are Koreans and Japanese; and the existence of a Roman Catholic Convent accounts for the presence of a few persons of French, Italian, Belgian, Spanish, and Hungarian nationality. The population of the Island of Liukung, of which a separate census is taken every year, is 864, of whom 39 are Europeans.

IX.—Education.

Up to 1928, the efforts and achievements of the Government in respect of education in the territory were almost negligible. Inadequacy of financial resources made it impossible for the British Administration to do much more than support one boys' school (for Chinese) at Port Edward, and even on this institution the total outlay was restricted to the modest sum of \$3,600 a year. The larger villages in the territory maintained old-style schools of their own, at which perhaps five per cent. of the boys of school age learned to read and write their own language. None of these schools received any Government supervision. In Port Edward the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and "Brethren" missions maintained good schools for many years, without any financial or other assistance from Government, and these schools set up a standard of education far higher than that of the old-fashioned village schools.

Three other schools were founded by local merchants and other Chinese residents. One is a small school on the Island of Liukung with 45 pupils. Another is the Shu T'ê School for girls, originally

established in connection with an anti-footbinding movement. The third is a large and progressive Middle School for boys, staffed by Chinese University graduates and thoroughly modern in its methods and in the subjects taught. The headmaster—Mr. Tung—is an enthusiast and a man of high educational ideals. For some account of this promising institution—known till 1928 as the Ch'i Tung ("Eastern Shantung") School but now re-named the Weihai Middle School—reference may be made to the Annual Report for 1927, in which it was stated that there was some reason to hope that the school might in due time receive a substantial grant or endowment from the returned "Boxer" indemnity. Until the year under review, the local Government was unable to do more for this school than provide it with free quarters.

The growing prosperity of Weihaiwei and the increase in its public revenue has at last enabled the Government to promote the cause of education in the territory more effectively than circumstances have permitted in the past. A Department of Education has now been provided for in the annual Estimates, and although it is not yet possible to appoint an Inspector of Schools, an effort is being made to exercise some measure of supervision over the village schools, and in 1928 small money grants in aid of a limited number of modern schools were for the first time provided out of Government funds. The beneficiaries of the grants during the year under review were the Anglican Mission School for boys, the Catholic Mission Schools for boys and girls, and the girls' school conducted by the ladies of the "Brethren" Mission. It is hoped that the grant-in-aid system will be extended, and the grants increased, in accordance with any further advance that may take place in the prosperity of the territory.

In the course of the year under review the Weihai Middle School which has hitherto been accommodated in cramped quarters in the middle of Port Edward, quite unsuitable for a large boys' school and lacking a playground, petitioned the Government for the grant of a piece of Crown land for the purpose of erecting new school buildings and providing adequate playing fields. An admirable site was selected on the sea coast about two miles from Port Edward. It consists of a piece of ground about 10 acres in extent, containing admirable sites for all the buildings that can be required for many years to come, leaving ample space for purposes of recreation. The grant of this tract of land to the Weihai Middle School was recommended to and approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and steps were immediately taken by the school authorities, with Government encouragement, to collect subscriptions towards a building fund. To this fund the Government promised, subject to the Secretary of State's approval, to contribute the sum of \$5,000 during the financial year 1929-30, on condition that at least the same amount were raised by public subscription. Encouraged by this evidence of official approval and support, the Chinese merchants of

Port Edward quickly raised the amount required : indeed in the course of a few days after the issue of the appeal the amount collected reached a total of \$15,000. Plans for the proposed buildings are already being drawn up, and it is expected that the work will be begun early in 1929 and completed before the end of the summer. Weihaiwei will then be equipped with a school which will remove from the territory the reproach that has been directed against it in the past—that neither Government nor people took any active interest in the educational welfare of the rising generation.

That the people of the territory as a whole, and not merely the residents of Port Edward, are interested in the fortunes of the Weihai Middle School is proved by the fact that since 1927 a portion of the maintenance expenses of the school has been derived from a small surtax on the land tax, and that this surtax was imposed at the direct request of the headmen of the 26 districts into which the territory is divided.

It is difficult to form an accurate estimate of the proportion of children of school age now undergoing education of some kind in the territory. Most of the boys and all but a minute fraction of the girls of Weihaiwei grow up without any education at all. According to the census returns for 1921, the number of the inhabitants of the territory who could read and write was under 14,000. Of these only 227 were females. If we assume, as we probably may, that a slight improvement has taken place in the last seven years, and that there are now about 17,000 "literates" in the territory, it appears that the "educated" people of Weihaiwei comprise only about one-tenth of the total population.

The following table gives the number of pupils attending the principal modern schools during 1928 :—

	<i>Day Pupils.</i>	<i>Boarders.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Weihai Middle School (Boys) ...	109	34	143
Island School, 33 boys, 12 girls ...	45	—	45
Huang Jen Government School (Boys).	200	—	200
Shu Tê School for Girls ...	50	—	50
Anglican School (Boys) ...	36	27	63
"Brethren" School ...	134	56	190
Roman Catholic Boys' School ...	135	35	170
Roman Catholic Girls' School ...	65	—	65
Roman Catholic Kindergarten ...	35	—	35
Roman Catholic Boys' School at village of Yen T'an.	22	—	22

831	152	983
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The Mission Schools named in the above list naturally include religion among the subjects taught. In this connection it may be of interest to record the numbers of Chinese Christians belonging to the three denominations—Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Non-conformist—which carry on evangelistic work in the territory. Anglican Christians number 30, Roman Catholic 350, Nonconformist (“ Brethren ”) 106. Thus the total number of Chinese Christians of all denominations in the territory amounts to 486, or approximately 1 in every 370 of the population.

X.—Lands and Survey.

It has not been found possible to undertake a cadastral survey of the territory, though the 2-inch to a mile survey carried out by the Royal Engineers under Major C. Penrose (see section I, page 5) in 1898-99 has been found very accurate and of great practical use for administrative purposes.

Lands fit for cultivation are practically all privately-owned. A few isolated pieces of land along the coast are Government property, owing to the fact that they were military areas or “ fort-lands ” under the Chinese Imperial Government. Agricultural land is difficult to buy, not only on account of the density of the agricultural population, which in itself would tend to keep land-values up to a high level, but also because cultivated land very rarely comes into the open market. Every Chinese agricultural landowner in Weihaiwei—and this applies with equal force to the neighbouring parts of the province of Shantung and to many other parts of China—is by custom debarred from selling his land to strangers. If he is compelled by circumstances to part with his land he is obliged to offer it first to his nearest relatives of the same surname. Only if they all refuse to buy (at a price which is considered reasonable by the elders of his clan) he may be regarded as free to sell to an outsider. But it is very rarely, except in times of famine or political upheaval, that the seller is met with refusals by all the appropriate members of his clan in their order of precedence or seniority. During the past few years such cases have been common enough in the greater part of the province, where the misgovernment of militarists has compelled tens of thousands of peasant-proprietors to abandon their properties and flee to Manchuria or to such miniature “ Peach Gardens ” as Weihaiwei. But this state of things has naturally had the result of raising the market price of farm-lands in this territory to figures which from the purely economic standpoint are almost fantastically high.

Urban sites may often be obtained more easily and at more reasonable prices, because they have usually passed through many hands and are not necessarily subject to customary clan-restrictions. Nevertheless the influx of refugees, some of them well-to-do, the

increasing importance of Port Edward as a commercial centre, and the tendency of thrifty Chinese to invest their savings in real estate rather than in industrial enterprises of a more or less speculative nature, are responsible for continuous increases in urban land-values. It was remarked in the Report for 1927 that land on the outskirts of Port Edward which in 1902 could be bought for \$20 a *mu* or \$120 an acre, had risen in 1921 to prices varying from \$200 to \$800 a *mu*, and that six years later such land could find purchasers at \$1,300 a *mu*. Yet since the last Report was written, cases have occurred of vegetable-gardens on the outskirts of Port Edward changing hands for building purposes at no less than \$4,000 a *mu* or \$24,000 an acre; and there is no reason to suppose that the upward tendency has ceased.

XI.—Labour.

There are no local labour unions or organizations in Weihaiwei other than the ordinary Chinese trade-guilds. The relations of the latter with the Government have always been excellent. The latest local guild to come into existence is the motor-car guild, which was formed soon after the withdrawal (in 1928) of the embargo on motor traffic in this territory. The vast majority of the inhabitants of Weihaiwei are farmers and fishermen; and as nearly all the farmers are peasant-proprietors, who till the lands handed down to them by their ancestors through many generations, disputes between agricultural labourers and their employers are unknown. In the only urban district in the territory—the Port Edward area—the relations between employers and employed are harmonious, though the steady increase in the cost of living necessitates fairly frequent readjustments of wages.

For further observations on labour conditions, and on the entry of women into the local labour market, reference should be made to the Report for 1927.

XII.—Miscellaneous.

During 1928 a few changes took place in the administrative staff. Mr. Calthrop, Junior District Officer and Magistrate, who had left the territory in December, 1927, was succeeded on 6th January by Mr. W. La B. Sparrow. For the services of both these officers, Weihaiwei is indebted to the Government of Hong Kong. Mr. C. R. Lee (seconded from the Consular Service in China), who had acted as Senior District Officer since March, 1927, left the territory on 27th August, 1928. His place was temporarily taken by Mr. Sparrow while Mr. R. G. L. Ford of the Northamptonshire Regiment became Acting Junior District Officer. On 20th November Mr. H. I. Prideaux-Brune (also seconded from the Consular Service) arrived

in the territory and was gazetted Secretary to Government and Senior District Officer, while Mr. Sparrow reverted to his own post.

Surgeon-Commander (now Surgeon-Captain) N. S. Meiklejohn, D.S.O., R.N., who in addition to his naval duties as Officer in charge of the Royal Naval Sick Quarters had also occupied the post of Civil Medical Officer for the Island of Liukung since 16th December, 1925, resigned his civil appointment on 24th October, 1928, on the expiry of his term of office under the naval authorities, and was succeeded in both posts by Surgeon-Commander G.P. Adshead, R.N.

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No. 1447.

NEW HEBRIDES.

REPORT FOR 1928.

*For Reports 1926 and 1927 see Nos. 1354 (Price 6d.) and
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NEW HEBRIDES.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
I. GENERAL	2
II. FINANCE	4
III. PRODUCTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES	6
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	8
V. COMMUNICATIONS	9
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS... ..	12
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	14
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH	14
IX. EDUCATION... ..	17
X. LANDS AND SURVEY	17
XI. LABOUR	18
XII. POPULATION	19
XIII. METEOROLOGICAL	19
MAP.	

I.—GENERAL.

History.

The New Hebrides lie between the 12th and 20th degrees of South latitude, and the 165th and 170th degrees of East longitude, and are of an area of roughly 5,700 square miles. The principal port of the Group and the seat of Government is the township of Vila, on the island of Efate, in the southern part of the Group and about 5 or 6 days' steam from Sydney, New South Wales.

Santo, the largest and one of the northernmost islands of the Group was discovered by Quiros in 1606, who touched at the Bay of St. Phillip and St. James (Big Bay). Under the impression that he had located the long sought Southern Continent he named it "Tierra Australis del Espiritu Santo," and it is recorded that a settlement was established at the River Jordan, but was later abandoned on account of sickness and dissensions with the natives.

Nothing further was heard of the Group until the year 1768, when Cook touched at various points and, in the year 1774, charted and named most of the larger islands.

At about the same period of Cook's discoveries the French navigator, Bougainville, sailed between the islands of Santo and Malekula, thereby disproving Quiros' theory as to the existence of the great Southern Continent. The strait through which he passed still bears his name.

In 1788 the French Government expedition under La Perouse is supposed to have visited these islands, but came to an untimely end at Vanikoro, in the Santa Cruz Group, a little to the north of the New Hebrides.

The Banks Group, forming part of the Northern New Hebrides, was sighted by Bligh in 1793.

D'Entrecasteau, Dumont d'Urville, Belcher, Markham, and others, are among the early voyagers whose accounts of these islands are of interest.

The New Hebrides for many years was practically a "no man's land," and a favourite hunting ground for recruiting vessels, but, in the year 1887, a Joint Naval Commission was appointed, charged with the protection of the lives and property of the subjects of the two nations—France and England—in the islands. The Commission was composed of two officers from each of the English and French warships in these waters and was presided over alternately by the British and French Commanders.

In 1895 an Arbitration Court was formed by the colonists, but the Joint Naval Commission pronounced its veto and the Court was dissolved.

In 1902 the first British Resident Commissioner was appointed, the French Government having a short time previously appointed a similar official.

Geography.

The islands of the New Hebrides, with which are included the Banks and Torres Groups, form an incomplete double chain stretching in a north-north-west direction for a length of 550 miles and consist of about 80 islands. Santo is the largest with an area of approximately 1,500 square miles and a coastline of over 200 miles. Of the smaller islands there are about 18 averaging a little over 5 square miles. The larger islands are high (highest point 6,169 feet) and show extensive exposures of volcanic rocks underlying areas of raised coral terraces, which latter reach in some cases an elevation of quite 2,000 feet. The smaller islands are often wholly volcanic. There are three principal volcanoes in the Group, which are usually active, situated on the islands of Tanna, Lopevi, and Ambrym. Santo contains numerous small rivers, only navigable, however, to minor craft.

The Group has three good harbours, Vila, Efate, the headquarters of the Administration, lies on one of these harbours. It is a small town built on the surrounding hills, which extend to the beach, on which are to be found the principal business houses. The

European languages spoken in the Group are English and French. There is no unification of the native language ; each island speaks a different tongue, and there are many different dialects in the same island. British and French currencies are legal tender in the Group, and the British and French systems of weights and measures are in use.

The natives are Melanesians, but in places there is a mixture of Polynesian blood.

General.

By the Convention of 20th October, 1906, a Condominium was set up with a Joint Court composed of British and French Judges and a neutral President ; and an executive Government consisting, for some purposes, of the British and French representatives in the Group acting in concert. For other purposes British and French nationals remain subject to the control only of their national authorities. The Convention of 20th October, 1906, has been superseded by a Convention of 6th August, 1914, which was ratified in March, 1922.

The British and French Resident Commissioners are subordinate to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific and the High Commissioner at Noumea respectively.

II.—FINANCE.

During July, 1928, the franc was stabilised at 124.21 to the £ sterling. For local purposes the rate 124 was adopted as from the 1st October to facilitate commercial transactions in both currencies which are legal tender in the Group. The year opened with the French currency at 124.02 at which figure it remained until stabilised.

There are not at present any banks within the Group, though to a limited extent banking facilities are given by some of the larger commercial houses. The French firms carry out their banking business mostly with the Banque de l'Indo-Chine in Noumea, New Caledonia, and the British firms with banks in Australia.

Under the 1914 Convention each of the two Powers defrays the expenses of its own national administration in the Group. Expenses in connection with the Joint Services, viz :—Medical Service, Post and Telegraphs, Customs, Public Works, Port and Harbour, Treasury, Joint Court and Summary Courts, Land Registry, etc., are met from funds provided by local taxation. Should the revenue prove insufficient, the two Powers are bound to contribute to the deficit in equal proportions.

Since the year 1921 no grant-in-aid for this purpose has been necessary.

Revenue and Expenditure.**CONDOMINIUM REVENUE.**

Year.		French currency.		British currency.	Remarks.*
		Francs.		£	Converted at
1924	...	944,725	or	10,985	francs 86=£
1925	...	1,420,714	or	14,066	francs 101=£
1926	...	1,777,199	or	11,540	francs 154=£
1927	...	3,037,711	or	24,497	francs 124=£
1928	...	3,463,551	or	27,932	francs 124=£

CONDOMINIUM EXPENDITURE.

Year.		French currency.		British currency.	Remarks.*
		Francs.		£	Converted at
1924	...	686,742	or	7,985	francs. 86=£
1925	...	2,508,212	or	24,833	francs 101=£
1926	...	1,217,599	or	7,906	francs 154=£
1927	...	2,220,479	or	17,907	francs 124=£
1928	...	3,568,404	or	28,777	francs 124=£

The import and export (Customs) duties are set out in Joint Regulations Nos. 2 and 3 of 1927. In regard to imports there is an *ad valorem* duty of 12 per cent. on spirits and tobacco and a 20 per cent. *ad valorem* duty on lace, perfumery and other luxuries. The bulk of the imports are subject to a 6 per cent. *ad valorem* duty. Export duty is 1 per cent. *ad valorem* with the exception of that on turtle shell which is 5 per cent.

EXPENDITURE ON SERVICES ENTIRELY BRITISH.

				£
1924-25	...	...	...	13,759
1925-26	...	...	...	20,248
1926-27	...	...	...	15,693
1927-28	...	...	...	16,048

The above expenditure is defrayed from funds provided by Parliament on Civil Estimates, Vote for Colonial and Middle Eastern Services, Class II, 9. There are certain miscellaneous receipts, fees of Court or office fines, etc., totalling a few hundred pounds each year (£792 for 1928) which are now applied in reduction of the Vote on which expenditure is provided for. The expenditure on British services includes, *inter alia*, the personal emoluments of the British staff, Police Force, District Agents, and the provision of transport.

* During 1924, 1925, and 1926 the value of the franc fluctuated considerably, so that the rates 86, 101, and 154 must be regarded as very approximate.

III.—PRODUCTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

During the year under review the agricultural development of the Group has continued and new areas have been opened up.

The steady rise in the production of copra has been maintained and an increase of some 2,500 tons is to be noted over the quantity produced during the preceding year. The bulk of the copra is produced on European plantations, and only a quarter of the total could be assigned to purely native production. The prices realised locally were not as favourable as those prevailing during 1927, an average of only £16 per ton being obtained as against £20 for the previous year.

The European markets continue to absorb the whole of the output with the exception of a few hundred tons which go to Australia.

Cocoa is the next most important item of production, but the figures for the year show a decrease in export of 922 tons over that of 1927 ; while the average price obtainable locally fell short of that realised during 1927 by £5 8s. per ton. The decrease in production can be attributed to two severe storms which ravaged the plantations of the northern part of the Group in the early months of the year, and not to any falling off in cultivation.

There has been little change in the production of cotton ; a small increase of some 50 tons of the marketable article is observed compared with the output for the previous year. Prices realised during the past few years have not been sufficiently attractive to induce planters to undertake any extensive cultivation, and for the same reason native production has practically ceased.

The bulk of the seed cotton is dealt with locally by four ginning plants established at Vila, Malekula, and Epi (2), respectively. A small quantity is exported to Noumea for treatment, but on account of the extra cost this procedure is not much favoured.

Most of the cotton continues to be exported to France.

A slight falling off is observed with regard to the production of coffee, 96 tons being exported as against 123 tons the previous year.

From the appended table it will be seen that although the total tonnage of exports has increased by 2,378 tons over that of 1927, the total value for 1928 falls short of that realised in the previous year by nearly £52,000.

The British share of the export trade amounts to about 25 per cent. of the total.

The general position at the end of 1928, although somewhat discouraging from the point of view of prices realised, especially for copra, may be considered satisfactory from the view point of agricultural development.

The fertility of the soil in almost every island of the Group enables most tropical agricultural products to be grown very easily. The almost entire absence of disease and pests common to other tropical countries is an important factor in ensuring to the planter the best results. The rainfall is abundant and hurricanes are of rare occurrence, and are usually confined to a small area.

EXPORTS.
COMPARATIVE TABLE IN TONS AND STERLING.

Produce.	1924.			1925.			1926.			1927.			1928.		
	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.	Value. £	Tons.
Copra ...	...	6,792	125,652	7,371	162,154	8,382	184,318	10,204	204,090	12,682	208,954				
Cocoa ...	...	1,517	60,716	1,495	59,808	1,949	87,731	2,344	140,697	1,422	77,685				
Cotton ...	...	1,420	46,068	*1,015	56,294	*1,420	44,556	†501	40,170	551	43,468				
Coffee ...	...	281	7,110	287	10,111	274	21,890	123	4,842	96	5,534				
Trochas ...	...	—	—	112	8,073	85	4,686	86	4,299	61	2,627				
Maize ...	...	307	1,844	194	1,358	207	1,659	118	949	303	2,277				
Sandalwood ...	...	84	1,038	22	554	57	1,435	23	384	54	898				
Wool ...	...	33	10,805	23	6,129	32	7,222	5	601	22	2,453				
Cotton seed ...	...	—	—	316	541	987	1,467	880	880	1,198	1,210				
Miscellaneous ...	...	347	7,857	248	2,379	304	19,265	63	1,116	336	975				
Totals ...	...	10,781	£261,090	11,083	£307,401	13,697	£374,229	14,347	£398,028	16,725	£346,081				

* Mixed.

† Ginned.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total value of goods imported into the Group during the year under review was £374,797, an increase of £66,857 over 1927. French importers accounted for £305,368, and £69,429 fell to British firms, or slightly over 18 per cent. of the whole.

IMPORT VALUES.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>British currency.</i>	<i>French currency.</i>	<i>Remarks.*</i>
	£	Francs.	Converted at
1924	... 92,201	or 7,929,327	francs 86=£
1925	... 217,863	or 22,004,232	francs 101=£
1926	... 197,840	or 30,457,405	francs 154=£
1927	... 307,939	or 38,184,562	francs 124=£
1928	... 374,797	or 46,474,828	francs 124=£

The port of Sydney, New South Wales, supplies generally the necessities of life, such as flour, sugar, tinned meats, etc.; building material and a certain amount of soft goods are also procured there; wines and spirits in the main are drawn from Europe.

The principal importing firms are (British) Messrs. Burns Philp (South Sea) Company Limited, and Messrs. Gubbay Bros., of Vila; (French) Les Comptoirs Français des Nouvelles Hébrides, Société de Béchade, both of Vila and Santo; La Compagnie Franco-Hebridaise, Vila and Santo, and les Etablissements Hagen of Epi and the Banks Group. Other important companies of the Group are also importers, such as La Société Cotonnière des Nouvelles Hébrides, and La Société Minière et Agricole of Malekula and Santo respectively.

There are six small trading steamers employed in the inter-insular trade, five are under the French flag and one under the British. Each of these steamers is furnished with a well stocked "trade" room, from which the settler may draw his supplies. Produce is usually carried no further than Vila, and there transhipped to the large semi-cargo vessels of the Messageries Maritimes, which touch at Vila six times a year.

There are five important stores in the township of Vila, of which two are British; in addition about a dozen smaller shops are in the hands of Chinese and Japanese traders. Competition is naturally keen, but it is not thought that British trade suffers thereby to any appreciable extent.

The bulk of New Hebrides produce continues to be exported to Europe in French bottoms, the larger share falling to the Messageries Maritimes Company. A few years ago the bulk of the trade was centred in the port of Sydney, New South Wales, but with the advent of the Messageries Maritimes, with the advantages of cheap

* During 1924, 1925, and 1926 the value of the franc fluctuated considerably so that the rates 86, 101, and 154 must be regarded as very approximate.

freights and direct communication with Europe, trade with Sydney has gradually been diverted.

Wages and Cost of Living.

The cost of living in Vila, the seat of Government, is more expensive than town life in the United Kingdom. As in most tropical countries the standard of living for reasons of health must be as high as circumstances will permit. In other parts of the Group living is not so expensive. Supplies of fresh meat, fish, eggs, poultry, and fresh vegetables are scarce and in consequence fetch abnormal prices. Vegetables can be grown and thrive well if carefully attended to and provided a sufficient supply of water can be maintained—which is the chief difficulty. Native labour is not easily procurable and in Vila commands 6s. per day and food. Domestic servants are usually procured from the outlying islands and are also difficult to obtain. Wages vary from 25s. to 30s. per month for a female, and 30s. to 40s. for a male. The New Hebridean does not make a good domestic servant.

Perishable commodities are imported from Australia. A large proportion of tinned provisions are imported direct from Europe.

The following table gives the average prices in 1928 for various foodstuffs :—

Flour ...	...	...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Butter...	...	...	...	...	2s. 9d. per lb.
Sugar ...	...	...	...	...	4d. per lb.
Potatoes ...	...	...	...	...	3d. per lb.
Tinned meats	...	...	...	...	1s. 6d. to 2s. per tin.
Bacon...	...	...	...	...	3s. 3d. per lb.
Tea ...	...	...	...	...	3s. 6d. per lb.
Coffee ...	...	...	...	...	2s. 3d. per lb.
Eggs ...	...	...	...	...	3s. to 4s. per dozen.

Fresh milk is difficult to obtain as the supply for sale is limited, but it is usually possible to keep a cow. There are no hotels in Vila or elsewhere in the Group. Wearing apparel has to be imported from Australia or Europe.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

Europe.—The Messageries Maritimes line of steamers run a two monthly service of "cargos-mixtes" from Vila to Marseilles via Tahiti, Panama, and Martinique. Messrs. Ballande and Company also run three large cargo steamers from Vila to Marseilles several times during the year to ship their own merchandise.

Australia.—The S.S. *Makambo* (Burns Philp line) and the S.S. *La Perouse* (Messageries Maritimes) maintain communication with Sydney—the former via Norfolk Island and Lord Howe, and the latter via Nouméa, New Caledonia.

New Caledonia.—Communication is maintained with Noumea by the Messageries Maritimes “cargo-mixte” steamers which touch at Vila on the outward bound voyage from Marseilles; also by the mail vessel *La Perouse* and at fairly frequent intervals by the French inter-island steamers mentioned below.

Inter-Island.—The following steamers make monthly or five-weekly voyages round the Group, usually connecting with the British or French mail vessels (S.S. *Makambo* and *La Perouse*):—S.S. *Malinoa* (Burns Philp South Sea Company), S.S. *St. Andre* and S.S. *St. Michel* (Messrs. Comptoirs Français des Nouvelles Hébrides), S.S. *Néo Hébridais* and S.S. *Pervenche* (Société de Béchade), S.S. *Koboloko* (Etablissements Hagen).

The port of Vila is at present the only port of entry in the Group. The tonnage entered and cleared during 1928 totalled as follows:—

ENTERED.					
				Tons.	
British	...	...	...	8,702	(19 vessels).
French	...	...	...	107,969	(49 vessels).
Total	...	...	...	116,671	

CLEARED.					
British	...	...	...	8,685	(16 vessels).
French	...	...	...	107,557	(46 vessels).
Total	...	...	...	116,242	

Roads.

There are a number of fairly good roads in and around the town of Vila, but only a few extend to any distance beyond the town. Improvements have been made during the year under report, and most of the roads in the capital are now capable of taking motor traffic. Road construction is at present carried out by contracts with local planters. In the other islands of the group, with the exception of Tanna, there are few roads, which in most cases are unsuitable for wheeled traffic except for short distances. The difficulty of procuring labour and the high wages demanded by skilled artisans make road construction a problem. On the island of Tanna there are several good roads and it is possible to cross from

Whitesands to Lenakel (vide sketch map) without difficulty. There are no roads into the interior of any of the other islands.

Railways.

There are no railways proper in the Group. In Vila some of the small wharves have two-foot rail tracks to transport merchandise to the bulk store sheds, and there is a similar track which runs from Vila to the outskirts of Mélé which is used for various commercial purposes.

Posts.

Regular mail communication from Europe and elsewhere is maintained by the subsidised mail steamers S.S. *Makambo* and S.S. *La Perouse* which visit the Group every five to six weeks. Most of the mails are landed at Vila and sorted and distributed through the Group by the island steamers, as the mail steamers only touch at a few places in the Group. There is no Post Office except at Vila, the collection and distribution of island mails being carried out by selected officers on the vessels concerned who receive an allowance from the Government. The Condominium Government has a postage stamp designed to represent the dual control. The values are inscribed in English and French currency.

The volume of postal matter handled by the Vila Post Office for 1928 was as follows :—

	<i>From, or to, British territory.</i>		<i>From, or to, French territory.</i>		<i>Other places.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Des- patched.</i>	<i>Received.</i>	<i>Des- patched.</i>	<i>Re- ceived.</i>	<i>Des- patched.</i>	
Letters ...	24,000	18,000	63,000	41,000	2,500	1,500	150,000
Other articles	48,000	2,500	30,000	5,000	100	—	85,600
Registered articles	600	829	3,803	4,356	125	282	9,995
Totals... ..	72,600	21,329	96,803	50,356	2,725	1,782	245,595

Radio-Telegraph.

There is a Government radio-telegraph station at Vila worked by a British and a French operator. The bulk of the traffic is with Nouméa ; there is a daily service with Suva, Fiji, and communication is obtained from time to time with other stations in the Pacific. The call sign of the Vila station is F J X. The total expenditure on the station for 1928 amounted to £1,875, and the receipts on account of traffic to £587. Of this sum £412 was paid to other

stations as their share of the charges. A table is given below showing statistics for the year under report.

<i>Messages.</i>		<i>Received.</i>	<i>Despatched.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Government messages	...	967	864	1,831
Other messages	...	4,289	4,449	8,738
Totals	...	5,256	5,313	10,569

Telephones.

Telephone communication is limited to Port Vila and the out-lying districts of the town. The system is operated by a central exchange. There are 54 telephones and 72 miles of wire. Owing to local weather conditions the system is difficult to maintain efficiently.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

There are five Courts of Justice in the New Hebrides. Their respective constitutions and jurisdictions are defined by the Convention of 1914. The relative provisions of this Convention do not admit of accurate summary, but the following paragraphs will serve to give a rough idea of the scope and functions of these Courts.

(1) *Joint Court*.—The Court is composed of a British and a French Judge presided over by a Judge of neutral nationality. There is also a Public Prosecutor and a Native Advocate. The Joint Court is a court of final adjudication. Broadly speaking and subject to exceptions, its civil jurisdiction is confined to certain proceedings in respect of rights over immovable property and to cases brought before it by common consent of the parties, whether native or non-native, and its criminal jurisdiction to offences or crimes (a) connected with the recruitment of native labourers or (b) committed by natives against non-natives or (c) committed by natives against natives and involving a greater penalty than one year's confinement.

There is an appeal to the Joint Court from all judgments of a Court of First Instance and from important judgments of a Native Court.

(2) *Courts of First Instance*.—These are composed of a British and a French District Agent, and a British or French Assessor chosen by lot. Their jurisdiction is over breaches of the 1914 Convention (or of Joint Regulations made thereunder) except those concerning the recruitment and engagement of native labour.

(3) *Native Courts*.—These are composed of either a British or French District Agent, assisted by two Native Assessors. With

the exception of those cases reserved to the Joint Court, Native Courts have Civil jurisdiction in cases where natives alone are concerned and penal jurisdiction over offences peculiar to natives or committed by natives against natives.

(4) and (5) *National Courts*.—The British and French Governments have established in the Group, in conformity with their existing legal systems, Courts with jurisdiction over all civil cases, other than those reserved to the Joint Court, and over all criminal cases in which a non-native is the defendant. In civil cases the jurisdiction over actions between non-natives belongs in some cases to the Court of the Power under whose law the contract was concluded or the act or thing in question originated, and in other cases to the Court of the Power to which the defendant belongs. In criminal cases, non-natives are justiciable by the Court of their own nationality or the nationality applied to them.

There were no serious cases of crime during the year under report. In 1928 the Joint Court delivered 25 Judgments concerning breaches of Joint Regulations and of the Protocol of 1914.

Police.

The policing of the Group is carried out by two separate forces of Armed Native Constabulary, British and French, each in charge of a National Commandant under the orders of the respective Resident Commissioner. The headquarters are at Vila ; small detachments are located at each of the District Agencies on the islands of Tanna, Malekula, and Santo, respectively, in order to assist the District Agents in the carrying out of their duties.

The British force is composed of natives recruited from the islands of the New Hebrides, and the French force partly of New Hebrideans and Loyalty Islanders. In addition the French have enrolled a number of Tonkinese police for the purpose of facilitating police operations among the Tonkinese coolies in the Group.

The duties of the native Constabulary consist in the maintenance of law and order among the native population of the more civilised areas, general police and patrol work, the guarding of native prisoners, and the repression of native disorders.

Both the British and French Commandants in addition to their duties as police officers to the Condominium, also act as police officers in so far as their own nationals are concerned, and are charged with the conduct of police cases before their respective national Courts.

The cost of the maintenance of the two forces is defrayed by the respective national Governments, except when the two corps are acting jointly, when the expenses are met from Condominium funds.

Prisons.

Each Government maintains its own national prison which is situated in the town of Vila, and accommodation is provided for both natives and whites. The cost of maintenance of prisoners sentenced by the national tribunals is met from national funds, and that of natives sentenced by the Resident Commissioners and the native and mixed Courts, from Condominium funds.

There is no Condominium prison staff. Each Commandant acts as prison keeper and is responsible for the supervision of prisoners placed in his charge. He is assisted by police constables who act as warders.

In addition to the national prisons at headquarters, each District Agency is provided with a temporary lock-up in which natives under short sentences are confined.

Native prisoners are employed in works of general utility, such as the making and cleaning of roads, weeding Government paddocks, transport of material to various Government buildings, etc.

The daily average of native prisoners confined in the British prison was 4.53 and that of the French prison 5.49. No deaths among prisoners were recorded during the year, and, apart from the usual spells of malaria and dysentery, there was no sickness to record, and the health of prisoners was good.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to the scarcity of skilled artisans in the new Hebrides the carrying out of public works is accomplished only with difficulty. The building of Government houses is carried out by importing ready-made cut houses from Australia, the erection and preparation of sites being done by local contract assisted by the Works Department. Road work is also done by contract with local planters. The Works Department consists of a Superintendent and an Assistant; casual labour is engaged as required, there being no permanent staff of artisans. The amount expended on Public Works—Annually Recurrent and Extraordinary—for 1928 amounted to approximately £11,704. Of this sum £1,776 was spent on roads and bridges and the balance on the erection of houses and general repairs to buildings.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Climate.

The New Hebrides is classed as unhealthy. The climate although very enervating is not, however, worse than that of many other tropical places. The year is marked by two seasons, the wet season

commencing in November and ending in April, and the dry season from May to October. The wet season is the more unhealthy and epidemic diseases are then more common. The mean temperature of the island of Efate is 77° F., ranging from 63° F. to 89° F. The southern islands of the Group are cooler and healthier than the northern islands—the latter being about 7° warmer on the average. Provided that careful attention is paid to the conditions of general living, sufficient exercise taken and moderation in habits observed, a satisfactory state of health may be maintained. It is, however, very desirable that a visit should be taken to a temperate climate every two or three years, especially in the case of women and children.

Diseases.

Malaria is the principal disease and all white residents who make a prolonged stay in the Group are likely to suffer from it sooner or later. The use of quinine as a prophylactic is recommended by many medical authorities. Amoebic dysentery is endemic throughout the year and epidemic during the rainy season. Beyond these two diseases there are no others to which the European is specially liable, but cases of blackwater fever occasionally occur. The indigenous population suffer principally from yaws, malaria, ankylostomiasis (hookworm), and dysentery. The various hospitals and doctors in the Group, both Government and Missionary, treat the natives for these complaints. In January, 1929, the Condominium Government in conjunction with the Rockefeller Foundation propose to commence a four years medical campaign throughout the Group for the treatment of yaws and hookworm.

Hospitals.

The following hospitals and medical aid posts are to be found :—

Tanna.—A well equipped hospital run by the Presbyterian Mission and subsidised by the British Government.

Efate.—Two well equipped hospitals at Vila ; the John G. Paton Memorial hospital administered by the Presbyterian Mission and subsidised by the British Government, and the French Government hospital.

Epi.—A Medical Aid Post in charge of an Annamite Medical Practitioner.

Malekula.—A hospital at Norsup run by private enterprise (Compagnie Cotonnière), and a Medical Aid Post at Port Sandwich in charge of an Annamite Medical Practitioner.

Santo.—A French Government hospital at the Second Channel, recently extended and enlarged.

All these institutions are open to white residents, Asiatics, and natives and do excellent work. The statistics for 1928 in respect of the British and French hospitals at Vila are given below :—

<i>Cases Treated.</i>	<i>British Hospital.</i>		<i>French Hospital.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Europeans.</i>	<i>Natives and Asiatics.</i>	<i>Europeans.</i>	<i>Natives and Asiatics.</i>	
"In" Patients ...	30	450	177	2,672	3,169
"Out" Patients ...	—	439	890	9,628	10,957
Totals ...	30	889	1,067	12,300	14,126
Deaths ...	—	14	12	86	112

Sanitation.

There are no modern systems of sanitation in the New Hebrides. Supplies of rain water for domestic purposes are collected in large galvanised iron tanks let off by pipes from the roofs of dwelling houses. Refuse is disposed of by burying or burning, or if near the coast by emptying rubbish into the sea at a suitable distance from the shore. Most Europeans employ the pit system of latrine, but in nearly all the houses occupied by Government officials, septic tanks have been installed and with reasonable care have proved very satisfactory. In and around the town of Vila areas of bush are cleared from time to time to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. A quarantine station for Europeans, Natives and Asiatics is about to be erected at Vila.

Report of Condominium Medical Officer for 1928.

For the year 1928 public health in the New Hebrides has been comparatively good. Apart from a small epidemic of measles on Tanna no other epidemics occurred. Cases of influenza were few. Two significant incidents which occurred were the explosion at Ballandes store which resulted in the death of nine Europeans, and the vegetable poisoning of a number of natives on the small island of Mélé near Vila. The only diseases which attack Europeans are fever, dysentery, and hookworm. Fever is endemic in the New Hebrides, but the measures which have already been taken and which it is proposed to take, as much from a sanitary standpoint as in the prosecution of the struggle against mosquitoes, will give to the New Hebrides, and above all Port Vila, a salubrity which should compare favourably with that of the neighbouring islands.

Dysentery is decreasing owing to rational and immediate treatment of those affected by the disease. Hookworm (ankylostomiasis) receives attention as soon as its presence is discovered. During the forthcoming year a campaign is to be commenced against hookworm and yaws from which diseases the natives suffer.

It can now be said that the New Hebrides, which has not hitherto had a reputation for salubrity, is steadily improving.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are no schools controlled or supported by the Condominium Government; nor are there any schools in the Group where it is possible for children to receive anything but a primary education not of a very high standard. Parents who can afford to do so are obliged to send their children to Nouméa or Sydney.

The town of Vila has three schools, (1) a girls' school, supported and controlled by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Mission; (2) a school for boys, in charge of the Marist Mission, the cost of which is met from Mission funds; and (3) an infants' school entirely supported and controlled by the French Government. School fees are purely nominal, and admission is not restricted to children of European parentage.

Various schools and training institutions for the benefit of the natives are maintained by the different Missions in the Group. The most important are centred at Tangoa, Santo; Lolowai, Aoba; Aoré; and at Vila, under the auspices of the Presbyterian, Melanesian, Seventh Day Adventist, and Marist Mission, respectively.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

The Joint Court, which is also a land Court, commenced the grant of indefeasible titles to land during May, 1928. Up to the end of December 22 titles were granted. The number of claims to ownership exceed 1,000 and cover an approximate area of 2,150,000 acres. The work of the Court in connection with the grant of titles is hampered owing to the difficulty of checking and making surveys. A staff of surveyors is attached to the Court. In the grant of land titles due consideration is given to the requirements of the natives and when necessary reserves are set aside for them. An official Native Advocate is appointed by the two Governments to assist the natives in connection with land claims.

The titles granted up to the end of 1928 were all in respect of the island of Efate.

XI.—LABOUR.

A review of the labour recruiting operations for the year indicates no improvement in the situation so far as the natives of the Group are concerned. The disinclination of the native to enter into lengthy engagements in the service of the settler is as pronounced as ever, and settlers who have no means for augmenting the local supply by importation of exotic labourers experience difficulty in the harvesting of crops and the development of their holdings.

This disinclination on the part of the native is in no way due to the conditions affecting his engagement, but rather to the progress of civilisation within the Group, which has brought within easy reach of the native and with a minimum of effort on his part such luxuries as he may desire, the cost of which a few years ago would have involved weeks or months of arduous toil.

Generally speaking the native of the New Hebrides is comparatively well off, and often the owner of a small coconut plantation which obviates the necessity of working for the white man.

The employment of native labourers under contract is regulated by the provisions of the Protocol of 1914. In addition British settlers are bound by King's Regulations Nos. 1 of 1913 and 10 of 1926. These instruments provide adequate safeguards both for employer and employee. The British and French District Agents stationed throughout the Group are charged with the supervision of all native labour, and reports on their operations are rendered periodically to their respective Resident Commissioners.

With the agricultural development of the Group the supply of labour from local sources was found insufficient to meet the requirements of an increasing number of settlers, and means were sought for augmenting the supply. In the case of the French the question was solved in 1921 by the introduction of Indo-Chinese coolies under contract, and the movement has continued ever since. At the end of 1928 there were approximately 5,500 Tonkinese labourers under contract to French settlers, some 1,200 having been introduced during the year. The Tonkinese makes a good plantation hand, and generally speaking, after he is once accustomed to plantation work, is preferred to the native.

British settlers are still dependent on local sources for working their plantations, but the supply is not equal to their needs.

Apart from labour under contract, numbers of natives in the vicinity of plantations find employment as casual labourers in work from day to day, an appreciable but unreliable supplement to the numbers recruited.

XII.—POPULATION.

Non-native.

A statement is appended giving details of the non-native population of the Group.

<i>Description.</i>	<i>British.</i>			<i>French.</i>		
	<i>Adult Males.</i>	<i>Females and Children.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Adult Males.</i>	<i>Females and Children.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Nationals	113	92	205	482	297	779
Foreigners opted under Protocol ...	14	9	23	40	23	63
Asiatics opted under Protocol	30	—	30	31	—	31
Protected subjects and citizens ...	—	—	—	3,558	1,982	5,540*
Totals ...	157	101	258	4,111	2,302	6,413

* Includes 40 Javanese, 304 indentured Chinese coolies and 5,106 indentured Tonkinese coolies.

Compared with the figures for 1927 the British population shows an increase of 18, principally Asiatics. French returns show an increase of 108 in Europeans, and 927 in protected subjects, principally Tonkinese coolies.

Native.

A complete census of the Group is not practicable; various estimates of the native population have been made from time to time ranging from 60,000 to 100,000, but it is not thought the number would exceed 50,000. The islands the most thickly populated, together with a rough estimate of their respective population are: Malekula 9,000; Pentecost 7,000; Santo 7,000; Tanna 6,500; Aoba 6,000; Ambrym 5,000; Epi 2,500; and Efate 1,500.

On the islands of Tanna and Tongoa the numbers remain practically stationary, but in general the population of the Group is decreasing.

It is significant that the inhabitants of the two islands on which the population at least is not decreasing are perhaps the keenest traders and the wealthiest natives of the whole Group.

XIII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

A hurricane occurred in the northern part of the Group during March, 1928, and although its area was limited considerable damage was done to some plantations. In April a severe blow occurred on

Efate without warning and some damage was caused to shipping in the harbour and to plantations in the vicinity of Vila. The table below shows the rainfall at four stations for the years 1924 to 1928 and the preceding mean quinquennial rainfall. The heaviest rainfall is in the Northern part of the Group.

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Dillons Bay (Erro- manga). 18°47 S. 168°58 E.</i>	<i>Port-Vila (Efate). 17°44 S. 168°18 E.</i>	<i>Hog Harbour (East Santo). 15°05 S. 167°67 E.</i>	<i>Port Patterson (Vanua Lava, Banks Is.). 13°50 S. 167°34 E.</i>
1924	...	...	...	47·17	77·84	135·78	139·88
1925	...	...	...	61·25	74·56	127·44	128·44
1926	...	...	...	62·34	73·06	133·34	137·50
1927	...	...	...	59·77	74·26	134·41	143·42
1928	...	...	..	47·51	72·03	135·62	142·12
Mean Annual for five years				55·60	74·73	133·32	138·27
Mean, previous five years...				65·97	74·62	106·98	176·73

G. A. JOY,
Resident Commissioner.

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12th April, 1929.

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(Unfederated Malay States)

REPORT FOR 1928.

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JOHORE ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1928

BY

G. E. SHAW, M.C.S.,
General Adviser

SINGAPORE :

Printed at the GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SINGAPORE,
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1929

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
I.—Financial 	1
II.—Trade 	4
III.—Agriculture 	6
IV.—Gardens 	9
V.—Chinese Protectorate 	9
VI.—Council of State 	10
VII.—Customs 	11
VIII.—Chandu 	13
IX.—Education 	14
X.—Forests 	20
XI.—Game Warden 	21
XII.—Judicial 	22
XIII.—Land 	23
XIV.—Marine 	25
XV.—Medical 	26
XVI.—Military 	31
XVII.—Mines 	32
XVIII.—Police 	33
XIX.—Post Office 	35
XX.—Prisons 	35
XXI.—Public Works 	38
XXII.—Railway 	42
XXIII.—Surveys 	43
XXIV.—Town Boards 	44
XXV.—Veterinary 	45
XXVI.—Staff 	46

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF JOHORE FOR THE YEAR 1928

I.—FINANCIAL

The Revenue for 1928 amounted to \$20,698,077 as compared with \$18,239,023 for 1927 and \$18,781,565 for 1926. The estimated revenue for the year was exceeded by \$5,297,612.

2. When restriction of rubber exports ceased the sum standing at credit of the Rubber Surplus Deposit Account was credited to Customs revenue. Revenue for the year was thus swelled by the sum of \$3,422,041.

3. There were increases under all the main Heads of Revenue except under Licences, Excise etc., and Land Sales which showed decreases of \$1,060,944 and \$107,088 respectively. The comparative receipts as shewn by the Treasury Books for 1927 and 1928 under the larger items were as follows:—

	1927	1928	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Land Revenue</i> ...	2,380,293	2,444,690	64,397	—
<i>Customs—</i>				
Copra, etc. ...	244,025	249,868	25,843	—
Rubber ...	2,030,245	5,053,729	2,963,484	—
Tobacco ...	1,453,120	1,345,078	—	108,042
Spirits ...	962,009	831,672	—	130,337
Petroleum ...	372,553	358,895	—	13,658
Tin Ore ...	220,978	186,969	—	34,009
Iron Ore ...	181,431	348,188	166,757	—
<i>Licences—</i>				
Chandu				
Revenue ...	5,388,749	4,221,619	—	1,167,130
<i>Posts and</i>				
<i>Telegraphs</i> ...	238,299	252,238	13,939	—
<i>Interest</i> ...	719,292	932,012	212,720	—
<i>Municipal</i> ...	838,516	1,000,593	162,077	—
<i>Land Sales</i> ...	1,136,899	1,029,811	—	107,088

4. Under Land Revenue: Land Rents (Recurrent) amounted to \$2,222,556 as compared with \$2,164,835 in 1927. The large increase shown under Rubber Duty was due to the Rubber Surplus Deposit which was brought to account under that head.

5. The Duty collected on imports of Tobacco, Spirits and Petroleum showed a falling off in sympathy with the depression in the rubber market which ruled for most of the year.

6. Chandu revenue showed a large decrease also in sympathy with the lower prices for rubber. Two new items under the head Licences, etc., *viz.*, Toddy Shops and Death Duties yielded \$51,132 and \$78,869 respectively. Telephone Rentals were responsible for the increase under Posts and Telegraphs. This item of revenue yielded \$94,299 as against \$81,389 for 1927. Under interest the increase was entirely due to Interest on Investments. The most notable increases under Municipal were on account of Automobile Licences which increased from \$161,066 to \$252,981, General Assessment which increased from \$223,621 to \$258,587 and Private Water Supply which amounted to \$76,664 as compared with \$47,626 in 1927.

7. The decrease under Land Sales was entirely on account of Premia on Grants.

8. The percentage contributions of the principal heads of Revenue to the total Revenue (exclusive of Land Sales) for the year 1924—1928 were as follows:—

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
Land and Forests ...	16'4	14'5	12'8	14'8	13'3
Customs ...	33'0	37'2	39'8	34'5	45'0
Licences, Excise etc.	36'4	33'3	35'7	35'7	25'7
Other Revenue ...	14'2	15'0	11'7	15'0	16'0
	100'0	100'0	100'0	100'0	100'0

EXPENDITURE

9. The total expenditure in 1928 was \$16,445,473 as compared with \$15,348,473 for 1927 and an estimate of \$18,073,429.

10. These figures include the contributions to the Opium Reserve Fund. Deducting these the true net expenditure for 1928 becomes \$15,195,474 as compared with \$14,098,475 for 1927.

11. Expenditure under Pensions showed a small increase of \$8,250 over 1927 but was \$21,423 under the Estimate.

12. Personal Emoluments again showed a large increase of \$347,197 over the previous year but there were savings of \$200,578 on the estimate.

13. Expenditure under Other Charges was \$3,008,512, an increase of \$281,242 over 1927 but \$33,223 under the Estimate.

14. Under Miscellaneous Services there was a decrease in expenditure amounting to \$139,104 as compared with 1927 and a saving on the estimate of \$74,735.

15. Under Public Works Annually Recurrent expenditure increased by \$102,526 but was \$18,516 under the estimate.

16. Expenditure on Public Works Special Services was \$5,219,528, an increase of \$443,323 over 1927 but \$1,400,102 under the estimate. Expenditure under Works and Buildings Special Services showed an increase of \$601,002 and Miscellaneous Special Services a decrease of \$252,807 as compared with 1927.

INVESTMENTS

17. During the year £233,333.6.8 (\$2,000,000) was remitted to the Crown Agents for investment. A profit of \$2,232 was made on the remittance.

18. Investments on account of Surplus Funds in Sterling Securities on 31st December, 1928 amounted to \$12,877,503 as compared with \$10,337,396 on 1st January, 1928. During the year Sterling Investments to the value of \$1,249,999 were transferred from Surplus Funds Investments to the Opium Reserve Fund.

19. Investments in Straits Settlements Government and Municipal Securities amounted to \$1,047,555 at the end of the year. A profit of \$34,256 was realised on part of the holding in Straits Settlements 5½ per cent War Loan which matured in July, 1928.

20. Local Fixed Deposits amounted to \$6,500,000 at the end of the year.

21. The Opium Reserve Fund increased from \$7,704,199 on 1st January, 1928 to \$9,369,429 on 31st December, 1928; all in Sterling Securities.

22. The total investments held by the Government on 31st December, 1928 amounted to \$29,794,486.

23. The Surplus at the end of the year amounted to \$25,078,662 as compared with \$20,826,058 at the end of 1927. On the Assets of the Balance Sheet, Cash, including Cash in Transit, amounted to \$5,131,702 of which \$1,228,246 was held by the Crown Agents. In addition a sum of \$857,143 is shown under Suspense: this represents a temporary investment made by the Crown Agents. The amounts outstanding

under advances and Loans were \$130,806 and \$145,506 respectively. The greater proportion of the amount shown under Loans represents Loans given to Subordinate Officers to enable them to purchase land and build houses for their own occupation.

24. The Loans are made free of interest to Mohammedan Subordinates and are usually repayable by monthly instalments spread over a period of not more than five years. The amount actually outstanding on 31st December, 1928 on this account was \$109,306 and the number of Loans in existence on that date 130.

25. On the Liabilities Side Deposits amounted on 31st December, 1928 to \$1,737,892 only as compared with \$5,660,984. This large difference is due to the transfer of the Rubber Surplus Deposit Account to Revenue as explained above.

26. The financial position at the close of the year was very strong and the gross surplus including the amount set aside for the Opium Reserve Fund amounted to \$34,448,090.

27. The following are shown in appendices:—

Appendix A.—Statement of Assets and Liabilities
1927 and 1928.

Appendix B.—Statement of Actual Revenue 1927
and 1928.

Appendix C.—Statement of Actual Expenditure
1927 and 1928.

Appendix D.—Statistical Return of Progress 1924
to 1928.

II.—TRADE

28. The total trade for the year 1928 shews a value of \$101,521,757 (compared with \$126,828,445 in 1927) constituted as follows:—

		1927	1928
		—	—
		\$	\$
Imports ...	...	39,422,852	37,502,279
Exports ...	...	88,317,154	65,327,031
		127,740,006	102,829,310
Less Re-Exports ...	...	911,561	1,307,553
		126,828,445	101,521,757

IMPORTS

29. The following table shews, under the main heads, the value for 1927 and 1928:—

	1927	1928
	\$	\$
Class I. Animals, Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	23,809,484	19,302,514
II. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	2,411,915	2,599,362
III. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	13,176,390	15,458,875
IV. Coin and Bullion ...	25,063	141,528
	<u>39,422,852</u>	<u>37,502,279</u>

EXPORTS

30. The following table shews a falling-off in the more important exports excepting iron-ore, timber and preserved pineapples:—

Articles	1927 Quantity	1928 Quantity	How Counted	1927 Value \$	1928 Value \$
Arecanuts ..	171,066.66½	183,891	Pkls.	1,247,676	1,109,915
Copra ...	532,068.60½	576,990	..	5,499,841	6,225,927
Pepper ...	202.28	82	..	13,153	8,030
Gambier ...	19,138.07	19,387	..	233,800	197,382
Coffee ...	560.19	997	..	33,536	87,902
Rubber ...	825,258.31	1,024,884	..	69,084,686	44,234,902
Sweet Potatoes	17,870.30	26,390	..	40,173	103,029
Tapioca ...	130,275.98	120,882	..	534,700	376,453
Pineapples ...	24,455,378.—	21,478,497	Nos.	482,647	603,375
Preserved Pineapples	630,943.—	857,819	C/s.	4,480,605	4,780,358
Agricultural Produce ...	—	—	—	260,047	800,290
Timber ...	23,061,30½	23,908	Tons	1,291,420	1,197,934
Other Forest Produce ...	—	—	—	311,434	370,954
Tin ...	16,373.28½	18,424	Pkls.	2,356,495	2,038,064
Iron-ore ...	409,241.8	584,588	Tons	2,046,205	2,658,193
China Clay ...	824.04	985	..	16,481	19,700
Wolfram ...	—	—	—	—	—
Marine Produce ...	—	—	—	83,221	98,536
Swine ...	4,029	3,624	Nos.	87,894	89,536
Cattle ...	4	24	..	310	2,508
Poultry ...	3,189½	2,807	Dozs.	31,970	28,037
Goats and Sheep ...	1	1	Nos.	5	15
Eggs ...	3,181,360	6,287,210	..	121,457	153,958
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	50,398	52,250
TOTAL ...				<u>88,317,154</u>	<u>65,327,428</u>

III.—AGRICULTURE

31. The field staff of the Department consisted, at the end of the year, of the Principal Agricultural Officer, six junior agricultural assistants, one probationer and eight sub-inspectors. Six agricultural apprentices were undergoing training at the Department of Agriculture, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, Kuala Lumpur.

RUBBER

32. Owing to the slump in prices and the general uncertainty as to the effect of removal of restriction of rubber exports, most planting Companies adopted a waiting policy and refrained from extensive development. Where new clearings were planted up care was generally taken to secure high yielding stock. About 35,000 metres of budwood, 12,000 stumps and 600,000 seeds were imported into the State during the year.

33. Root disease appears to be less prevalent in native holdings than in the larger Estates, the reason probably being that small holders habitually remove timber for use as fire-wood, little felled jungle being left to decay on the ground.

34. Mouldy rot continues to give trouble. Pink disease is not common, the coastal districts being comparatively free from it.

35. Johore has a total area of 579,317 acres planted in rubber and 767,555 acres alienated for rubber cultivation.

36. The Johore Government contributes \$50,000 a year to the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya. The work of the Institute is, of course, directed to the scientific investigation of the problems of the rubber planting industry. Enforcement of the provisions of the Agricultural Pests Enactment is left to the Johore Agricultural Department, which, in liaison with the Institute, provides instruction to Estate staffs and to small holders.

37. Instruction by the Institute takes the form of scientific publications, advisory correspondence, lectures, visits and demonstrations. In 1928 seventeen visits were paid to Johore by members of the Institute and two lectures were delivered at suitable centres. Considerable and special attention was paid to the problem of soil denudation in those areas of the State which might be expected to have lost fertility as a result of years of intensive cultivation in gambier, pineapples and pepper. The experiments conducted during the year tend to shew that in those areas it is not so much an actual loss of soil fertility which has ensued as excessive soil compactness, lessened aeration and reduction of water-holding capacity due to loss of fine soil particles.

38. In connection with reported cases of die-back a very full examination was made of fungi found associated therewith. As a result the Institute has reported that "no fungus was found on rubber trees showing a die-back of branches that is capable of attacking the upper crown branches under normal conditions of growth and none was found to exhibit epidemic tendencies even under existing conditions of poor nourishment and exposure of the host".

39. *Coconuts*.—The Coconut Palm continues to receive attention on small and medium sized holdings in the fertile coastal area lying between Kukup and the Malacca boundary.

40. Production of copra during the year, which amounted to 576,999 pikuls valued at \$6,225,927, exceeded that of the previous record output in 1926.

41. The area planted in coconuts is approximately 97,000 acres.

42. *Oil Palm*.—Increasing interest is being taken in cultivation of the Oil Palm. The total area alienated for this form of cultivation is 29,000 acres. The actual planted area was 6,457 acres at the end of the year. Some of the earlier plantings are now nearing the producing stage.

43. *Arcca*.—Interest in this crop has been well maintained. For the Malay small holder this is a lucrative industry. In the West Coast Districts many individual holdings now extend to 100 acres in area or thereabouts.

44. Export for the year showed an improvement on that of the previous year and amounted to 183,891 pikuls, valued at \$1,199,914. Effort is being made to combat carelessness in preparation. The Johore product is good average quality and, provided that the nuts are properly dried, commands a good price. There is a tendency to dry insufficiently and as a result the standard sinks.

45. *Coffee*.—The planting of coffee has attracted considerable attention recently. Many small estates have been established in the vicinity of Paloh. Estates have also been opened in the Segamat and Muar Districts. The largest individual plantation has at present a cultivated area of 500 acres. The total area under cultivation slightly exceeds 2,500 acres. It is not unlikely that coffee will be planted as a catch crop on some of the newer Oil Palm estates.

46. Unfortunately the bee hawk pest (*Cephonodes hylas*) has again made its appearance. The problem of control of this most destructive pest is under consideration by experts. Some considerable success has attended efficient spraying. This pest has behind it a long history of coffee destruction.

47. *Tuba*.—There is considerable new cultivation in Central Johore where plantations have contracts for definite shipments: further extensions are anticipated. Japanese cultivators now favour the planting of tuba as a sole crop, rubber being planted after its removal. Usually tuba has been cultivated as a catch crop with rubber, but this has been found to be detrimental to the rubber on account of interlacing root systems and the impracticability of harvesting the tuba without injury to the rubber. Planted areas at the end of the year were in the neighbourhood of 2,000 acres.

48. *Tapioca*.—Seventeen tapioca factories were in operation during the year. An estimated total area of 14,000 acres is under cultivation.

49. *Padi*.—There has been some revival of interest in padi planting during the year. Wet padi lands in the Segamat District which had not been cultivated for several years have again been brought under cultivation. Considerable progress has also been made in the Endau District. The local padi lands are not rich. Seven thousand and forty-nine acres were brought under cultivation. The yield was estimated at 844,000 gantangs. Selected seed from Krian, of type considered to be suitable for local cultivation, has been supplied to cultivators.

50. *Pincapples*.—The tinned pineapple industry continues to expand. Three new factories were in the course of erection at the end of the year.

51. The output of tinned pines has shown a considerable increase on that of 1927. Production was somewhat in excess of that of the previous record year, 1925. Exports during 1928 were valued at \$5,383,733. An area of about 35,000 acres is under cultivation.

52. *Bananas*.—The banana is still extensively cultivated by small holders in the Kukup, Muar and Batu Pahat Districts and as a catch crop on many small Chinese estates. The bulk of the produce is exported to Singapore.

53. *Miscellaneous Fruit*.—Efforts continue to be made for extension of fruit cultivation. There is a ready market in Singapore. Crops were good during the year, and export to Singapore has been extensive. The value of fruit so exported including bananas, but excluding pineapple fruit and tinned pines, amounted in 1928 to \$511,390. There is also a large local consumption.

54. *Fibres*.—There is little interest shewn in fibre crops. There have been inquiries about the possibilities of local cultivation of Sisal, Indian hemp, Roselle and Merguay fibre, but as yet nothing has materialised. No use has yet been made of the pineapple leaf as a source of fibre.

IV.—GARDENS

55. On the 1st September the State and Istana Gardens, which had formerly been left to irregular control, were placed under a Superintendent of Gardens trained at Kew. These beautifully situated gardens have of late years been somewhat neglected and much valuable material has been lost. Horticultural nurseries will be established with a view to the supply of selected fruit planting material.

V.—CHINESE PROTECTORATE AND LABOUR DEPARTMENT

56. The usual work of the supervision of Chinese women and girls was carried out.

57. Four societies were exempted from registration, and 15 were registered. There are now 69 exempted and 165 registered societies in Johore.

58. Thirteen Chinese schools were registered. At the end of the year there were 115 registered schools.

59. Considerable and increasing activity was displayed during the year by Chinese secret societies.

60. The number of labourers employed in each of the last two years, according to returns furnished to the Controller of Labour, was—

			1927	1928
			—	—
Indians	...	...	35,925	32,475
Chinese	...	...	16,055	19,607
Javanese	...	...	5,486	5,494
Others	...	...	801	1,154

Generally Estates tended to reduction of labour forces during the early part of the year but there was little unemployment.

61. Fifty-one Estate Hospitals were maintained. The Government District Hospitals are also largely used for treatment of Estate labourers. Housing and sanitary conditions on the Estates are generally good.

62. Over fifty Indian vernacular schools were maintained on Estates throughout the year.

VI.—COUNCIL OF STATE AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

63. The Council of State met on six occasions and the following Enactments were passed:—

1. The Agricultural Pests Enactment.
2. The Arms Enactment, 1921, Amendment Enactment.
3. The Carriage of Goods by Sea Enactment.
4. The Petroleum Enactment.
5. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Enactment, 1923, Amendment Enactment.
6. The Douglas Campbell Memorial Scholarship Fund Enactment, 1924, Amendment Enactment.
7. The Registration of Dentists Enactment.
8. The Deleterious Drugs Enactment, 1919, Amendment Enactment.
9. The Traction Engines and Motor Cars Enactment, 1914, Amendment Enactment.
10. The Reformatory Schools Enactment.
11. The Explosives Enactment, 1921, Amendment Enactment.
12. The Courts Enactment, 1920, Amendment Enactment.
13. The Land Enactment, 1910, Amendment Enactment.
14. The Mining Enactment, 1922, Amendment Enactment.
15. The Country Lands (Cultivation) Enactment, 1921, Repeal Enactment.
16. The Labour Code, 1924, Amendment Enactment.
17. The Rubber Dealers Enactment, 1921, Amendment Enactment.
18. The Reciprocal Enforcement of Decrees Enactment.
19. The Criminal Procedure Code.
20. The Stamp Enactment, 1914, Amendment Enactment.

64. The Executive Council met on 49 occasions during the year.

VII.—CUSTOMS

65. The total gross revenue collected by the Department was \$5,400,635.

REVENUE BY DISTRICTS, 1924 - 1928

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Muar ...	711,486	1,759,927	2,034,360	1,182,827	690,666
Batu Pahat ...	560,800	871,718	904,602	855,000	756,040
Kukup ...	203,357	227,663	270,080	207,700	232,225
Johore Bahru	1,561,560	2,282,788	2,604,670	3,610,681	2,069,208
Kota Tinggi ...	437,600	461,024	606,132	677,641	427,595
Endau ...	145,302	152,509	139,658	130,398	102,432
Segamat ...	210,888	261,514	329,109	420,517	222,468
	3,830,903	6,018,133	6,978,710	7,183,854	5,400,635

REVENUE BY PRODUCTIVE GROUPS, 1924 - 1928

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Arecanuts ...	81,156	82,054	86,187	70,008	85,203
Copra ...	237,523	258,108	260,273	223,308	252,286
Gambier ...	51,090	41,500	17,806	13,067	12,341
Pepper ...	841	616	—	494	330
Pineapples ...	—	—	42,824	46,357	65,178
Rubber ...	1,473,613	3,038,328	3,363,680	3,371,285	1,604,872
Tapioca ...	70,766	64,503	30,248	22,328	24,076
Other Agricultural Produce	73,782	70,847	30,804	15,986	46,520
Forest Produce	77,281	71,050	70,276	93,055	116,128
Minerals ...	432,618	427,311	372,075	403,116	536,142
Marine Produce	17,331	13,006	15,290	8,222	9,804
Miscellaneous Produce ...	2,653	5,457	7,645	5,030	5,226
Alcoholic Liquor ...	443,112	707,060	900,007	964,326	834,426
Tobacco ...	655,255	972,619	1,313,098	1,456,233	1,337,520
Petroleum ...	113,000	160,938	322,130	365,529	358,875
Matches ...	59,454	92,632	107,793	114,980	102,809
Live Animals	1,651	44	—	—	—
Weighing fees	28,510	83	—	—	—
Tobacco Licences ...	1,448	1,870	2,484	1,341	8,800
	3,830,903	6,018,133	6,978,710	7,183,854	5,400,635

66. In the following table are shown the proportionate contributions made to the revenue by the various groups of the dutiable articles in the last five years (tobacco licences and weighing fees are not included):—

		PERCENTAGE				
		1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
		—	—	—	—	—
Arecanuts	...	2.14	1.07	1.24	1.10	1.58
Copra	...	6.25	4.17	3.86	3.11	4.67
Pepper	...	0.02	0.71	—	0.01	0.01
Gambier	...	1.37	0.01	0.26	0.18	0.22
Pineapples	...	—	—	0.61	0.65	1.21
Rubber	...	38.77	50.55	48.22	46.94	29.77
Tapioca	...	2.10	1.11	0.56	0.31	0.45
Other Agricultural Produce	...	1.04	1.21	0.44	0.22	.86
Minerals	...	11.38	7.16	5.33	5.61	9.04
Forest Produce	...	2.03	1.22	1.14	1.30	2.16
Marine Produce	...	0.46	0.25	0.22	0.11	0.18
Miscellaneous Produce	...	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.10
Spirits Imports	...	11.66	11.79	13.03	13.43	15.48
Tobacco	...	17.24	16.22	18.82	20.27	24.81
Live Animals	...	0.04	0.01	—	—	—
Petroleum	...	2.97	2.85	4.62	5.09	6.66
Matches	...	1.56	1.57	1.54	1.61	1.90
		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

EXPENDITURE

67. Total expenditure amounted to \$266,872 of which Personal Emoluments accounted for \$204,158 and Other Charges for \$62,714. The increase both in Personal Emoluments and Other Charges were largely due to the strengthening of the Preventive Branch.

PREVENTIVE BRANCH

68. Suppression of rubber smuggling which was effective at the end of 1927 allowed the Preventive Branch time to give very necessary attention in other directions to protection of revenue.

69. Details of prosecutions for offences against the principal relevant Enactments were as follows:—

	1927		1928	
	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>	<i>Convic- tions</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>	<i>Convic- tions</i>
Customs	... 36	30	208	169
Excise	... 75	75	447	403
Chandu	... 353	313	315	257

70. In addition much work of importance was done by prosecution under the Explosives, Ganja, Deleterious Drugs and Arms Enactments. The Total cases prosecuted in 1928 were 1,099 as compared with 556 in 1927.

71. There was, in particular, much needed activity in the suppression of illicit distillation of spirits. One hundred and forty-eight illicit stills were seized during the year.

VIII.—CHANDU DEPARTMENT

72. This Department is in charge of the Superintendent, Chandu Monopoly, who is also Commissioner of Trade and Customs. He is assisted by one European Inspector of Chandu Shops, the remainder of the staff consisting of Malays and Chinese.

73. Sales of chandu for the last three years were as follows:—

	1926	1927	1928
Tahils	... 576,213	500,500	380,827

74. The fall in consumption reflects the bad trade conditions which followed the decision to remove restriction of rubber exports.

75. The nett revenue from sale of chandu was \$3,988.282. For 1927 the figure was \$5,058,798.

76. The number of Government shops was the same as last year: thirty-nine retail shops and 18 smoking saloons. There were no other recognised agencies for sale of chandu.

77. A scheme for registration of chandu smokers was introduced and was brought into effect before the end of the year. Unfortunately the introduction of this scheme coincided with a period of sharp agricultural depression which followed the decision to remove restriction of rubber exports. The resultant dislocation of labour and the uncontrolled movements of labourers in search of work rendered the

compilation of registers and the effective enforcement of the scheme matters of very considerable difficulty.

78. Consumers dislike this scheme which has, helped by bad times and lower wages, led to increased consumption of chandu dross. It has also, as anticipated, opened up new roads to petty extortioners and to traffickers in illicit chandu. Complete success cannot be hoped for at once. Reasonable satisfaction may be felt that considerable progress has been made, in a short period, towards an effective system.

IX.—EDUCATION

79. At the end of 1927 it was decided thoroughly to re-organise the Department of Education with a view to bringing Johore institutions and training into line with the more progressive and successful system of adjoining territories.

80. For reasons into which it is unnecessary to enter the educational methods hitherto adopted in Johore had not given the best results and refashioning had become urgently necessary.

81. The English and Malay Education Departments, formerly separated, were from the 1st March, 1928, amalgamated under a single Executive Head. Mr. H. R. CHEESEMAN of the Malayan Educational Service was chosen as the first Superintendent of Education. The Board of Education, a body formerly responsible for advising the Government on the policy and administration of both the English and Malay Departments, was dissolved but the Superintendent of Education was given the assistance of a small advisory committee for matters connected with Malay Education.

82. For appointments ordinarily held by Europeans it was decided to employ no permanent officers other than officers of the staff of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Education Department.

83. Action was taken for certification and grading of locally recruited Schoolmasters. With the object of recognising merit and of ensuring to efficient men reasonable hopes of a successful career a scheme was introduced on parallel lines to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Scheme

84. Four additional posts for European Officers were added—two Mistresses for Primary Classes and two Masters. One of the latter is to be Inspector of Malay Schools: the other is required for a new English School at Segamat.

85. Four vacancies on the Junior Establishment were filled by Mistresses with a view to improving the work in

the Primary Classes. The Special staffing problem due to the large number of young untrained teachers was met by an increase in the Junior staff, rendering reduction in the size of the classes possible, and also by a re-distribution of the Senior staff to ensure sufficient supervision.

86. Four representatives of the Department attended the Singapore Educational Conference, over which the Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, presided.

87. All pupils in Malay Schools enjoy free education.

88. Out of 1,093 pupils enrolled in the English Schools, 851 or 78% were exempted from payment of school fees. During 1928 there was a uniform school fee for all classes of \$3 per pupil per mensem. As from 1929 the school fees will be on the same scale as in the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States.

• 89. The arrangement whereby books were issued free to all pupils in English Schools was discontinued and a book fee of \$12 per pupil per annum payable in twelve monthly instalments of one dollar was introduced. In return for this fee pupils are supplied with books, which become their property; in the Primary Classes primary equipment is supplied in addition. Poor and necessitous pupils are exempted from payment. In 1928 out of 1,093 pupils, 25 or 2.4% were so exempted.

90. There was very thorough medical and dental inspection of all schools, English and Malay, in Johore Bahru, Muar (Bandar Maharani) and Batu Pahat (Bandar Penggaram). The Medical inspection was followed by treatment at the outside dispensaries and in Johore Bahru the schools received daily visits from a whole time school dresser who treated minor ailments. The dental inspection was followed by treatment from the school Dentist. The Johore Bahru Girls' Schools were inspected by the lady Medical Officer.

91. There was no regular medical inspection of the other schools in the State but proposals for remedying this are under consideration.

92. *English Education.*—There were two Government students at the University of Hong-Kong, both in the Faculty of Engineering, and two students at the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, one the holder of the Douglas Campbell Memorial Scholarship and the other holder of the Toh Ah Boon Scholarship.

93. Evening Clerical Classes were held at Johore Bahru and Muar. In Muar, the enrolment and attendance were

good and the classes proved successful; in Johore Bahru, the enrolment was small, the attendance unsatisfactory, and the classes proved a failure. Proposals for re-organisation of these classes are under consideration.

94. The annual tests of Normal Training conducted by the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Education Department were held in May with the following results:—

			<i>Entered</i>	<i>Passed</i>
			—	—
1st Year	...	...	5	5
2nd Year	...	...	8	8
3rd Year	...	...	3	2
			—	—
Total	...		16	15
			—	—

Johore Bahru students received part of their training in Singapore and part in Johore Bahru; Batu Pahat students received guidance; Segamat students prepared privately; there were no Muar students. In addition, there were four students who resided at a Hostel in Singapore maintained by Government and were attached to Singapore Government Schools.

95. It was decided to close the Singapore Hostel and to institute properly constituted Normal Class centres in Johore. The new arrangement came into operation as from 1st July, 1928, and the small classes gave excellent opportunities for individual attention, particularly in English.

96. A Physical Training Class was held at Johore Bahru and of the fourteen teachers who completed the course all passed the qualifying examination, five being placed in Class I.

97. Hygiene classes conducted by officers of the Johore Medical Department were held at Johore Bahru and Muar and will be continued in 1929.

98. In Johore Bahru an English class was held at which special attention was given to oral English.

99. All the special classes were well attended and teachers showed a gratifying desire to avail themselves of opportunities for further training.

100. It was found necessary considerably to recast the organisation of English schools.

101. The English College was closed as a residential school on 30th April, 1928, and the organisation of the Johore Bahru Schools from 1st May, 1928, was as follows:—

1. Nge Heng Primary School.—

For primary classes, accommodated in the building formerly used for the primary classes of Bukit Zaharah School.

2. Bukit Zaharah School.—

For lower classes (Standards I to IV inclusive) accommodated in the Bukit Zaharah School building.

3. English College.—

For higher classes (V and above) accommodated in the building formerly used by the old English College residential school.

102. The three schools were made independent, the Superintendent of Education being responsible for the co-ordination of the work. As a temporary expedient in order to meet difficulties of accommodation until school extensions were completed a Hostel was maintained in the old English College until the end of the school year and was then closed.

103. Action is being taken to convert the Malay Training College building for use as an English College. The old and unsatisfactory building now in use will be abandoned.

104. The Bukit Zaharah and Nge Heng school buildings were, by structural alterations, rendered more suitable for school purposes. The Bukit Zaharah school building was formerly one of the palaces of the late Sultan ABU'BAKAR.

105. The English schools at Muar and Batu Pahat were considerably improved by structural alteration. A site was acquired for an English school at Segamat and some progress was made with construction before the end of the year.

106. In conformity with the accepted view of modern educational authorities, that a multiplicity of external examinations tends unnecessarily to fetter schools and that these examinations should be postponed to as late a period in school life as possible, the annual Departmental examinations for Standards IV, V, VI and VII were abolished.

107. Most pupils enter the Primary Classes of English schools from Malay schools at the age of ten and a Kindergarten course is therefore impossible. But a beginning was made in 1928 with a suitable primary syllabus. European Mistresses were placed in charge of the Primary Classes in Johore Bahru and Muar and in all schools as far as possible Mistresses replaced Masters in the Primary Classes.

108. Special attention was paid to Hygiene. Hygiene classes for teachers were commenced, and Hygiene was taught throughout all schools. All school candidates for the Cambridge local examinations in 1928 entered for Hygiene.

109. The special class in Physical Training held in Johore Bahru had the advantage of the supervision and assistance of the Assistant Superintendent of Physical Training, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. In all schools attention was paid to Physical Training, both games and formal exercises.

110. A Johore Boy Scouts Association was formed with His Highness the Sultan as Patron and the Honourable the Dato Mentri Besar as President. Selected boys were trained in the first place and later Troops were formed in the English College, Bukit Zaharah School and Muar School. An excellent start was made and the movement received admirable support from the masters who officered them and from the boys. The Commissioner for Malaya inspected all Troops during the year and was very favourably impressed.

111. A Johore Teachers' Association was formed during the year, a welcome indication of the growth of a professional spirit and the desire for co-operation and progress.

112. An annual Grant-in-aid based on average attendance was approved for the Convent Girls' School. The school was inspected in December, 1928, by the Superintendent of Education and the first grant will be paid in January, 1929.

113. There were four private English schools on the register of the Department in 1928.

114. *Malay Education.*—On 1st March, 1928, the Malay Education Department became a part of the newly constituted Education Department under the Superintendent of Education.

115. It was decided to close the Malay Training College and to send every year fifteen Johore Students to the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Training College for Malay School Teachers. Johore will thus benefit by the experience which has made the Sultan Idris College so successful in the training of Malay School Teachers.

116. On the approved basis of one teacher for every twenty-five pupils, there was a shortage at the beginning of the year of fifty teachers. On the estimated enrolment for 1929, there was a shortage of over ninety teachers. To meet this demand, special classes for applicants for teachers' posts were commenced in August, 1928 in five centres and the new teachers were selected by an examination held at the end of the year.

117. Vernacular schools were organised in seventeen groups, sixteen for boys' schools and one for girls' schools, the Superintendent of Education undertaking unaided the inspection of the girls' schools. In the inspection of the boys' schools he is assisted by an Inspector of Malay Schools stationed at Muar and three Malay Assistant Inspectors stationed at Johore Bahru, Muar and Batu Pahat respectively. The Inspector of Malay Schools assumed duty on 21st December, 1928.

118. Haphazard transfers of pupils from Malay to English Schools were stopped. Boys are now permitted to proceed to the English Schools only at the beginning of the school year. Boys so transferred are selected.

119. New buildings were erected for eight boys' schools. Extensions to the Bandar Maharani Boys and Girls' Schools and to Tambatan Boys' School were completed. A new Boys' school for Bandar Penggaram to replace the existing temporary building was commenced. An extensive programme of repairs and improvements was completed.

120. Schools were supplied with seating accommodation for all pupils, with essential equipment, and with books and newspapers.

121. In addition to classes for applicants for Teachers' posts, there were special classes for men teachers in Art, Physical Training and Romanised Malay. The Art and Physical Training classes were held in Johore Bahru and the Romanised Malay classes at eight centres.

122. Special classes for women were held in Johore Bahru. They included instruction in Art, Handwork, Kindergarten, Romanised Malay, Physical Training and Hygiene.

123. Cookery is, for the future, to be taught in all Girls' Schools. A commencement was made in Johore Bahru.

124. Three Mistresses specially qualified in Needlework, Handwork and Cookery were appointed for Johore Bahru, Muar and Batu Pahat respectively to direct and supervise the teaching of these subjects.

125. Hygiene was taught in all schools. In Johore Bahru, the lady Medical Officer directed and inspected the teaching in the Girls' Schools.

126. There was during 1928 no provision for games even for schools with playing fields. A special grant for games has been approved for 1929.

127. *Tamil Schools*.—All the Tamil Schools are Estate Schools. The Inspector of Tamil Schools paid three visits to every school during the year, two of the three visits being surprise inspections. The surprise inspections were an innovation and helped to eliminate many irregularities in the conduct of the schools.

128. Several new buildings were erected and by the end of the year all schools were supplied with essential furniture and equipment.

129. The progress achieved during the year was considerable and, while much remains to be done, the outlook is encouraging.

130. The Inspector of Tamil Schools had the assistance of teachers from the English Schools in the Annual Examinations. Two thousand nine hundred and eighty dollars and fifty cents was the amount paid in grants to Tamil Schools during 1928.

131. *Malay Religious Schools*.—At the express wish of His Highness the Sultan it was decided that the Education Department should undertake responsibility for the pay and discipline of the Religious School Teachers. The direction and control of the teaching remains vested in a Committee for Religious Schools.

132. The Visiting Teachers for Religious Schools was given the status and salary of a Special Grade (Malay Schools) Teacher.

X.—FORESTS

EXPLORATION

133. In the Segamat District, between the river Palong and the Negri Sembilan boundary an area of 39,000 acres containing good commercial timber was selected for reservation as a Forest Reserve. In the Batu Pahat District an area of 77,000 acres, similarly rich in commercial timber was selected and reserved. In the Johore Bahru District exploration was made of Gunong Bekoh and its foot hills as well as a large area of undulating land in the same vicinity which contains good meranti and some chengal. There are no rivers in this area and roads, which will come with time, are necessary for economic exploitation. In the Kota Tinggi District where no reserve has as yet been constituted considerable exploration was made by the Conservator with useful results. An area rich in hard wood timber has been located and will be reserved.

RESERVES

134. Demarcation of the mangrove reserve at Tanjong Pelepas, about 5,000 acres in area, was commenced and nearly finished. Settlement of the Labis reserve, 200,000 acres in area, is now complete. This was notified in July, 1923 but difficulty was experienced in fixing the western boundary. The Kluang extension of 77,000 acres to the Rengam reserve has also definitely been settled. The Benut mangrove reserve of 3,000 acres and an extension of 63,000 acres to the Mersing reserve were notified in December. The Panti reserve is still unsettled. The total area of land which has finally been constituted as reserved forest is 110,903 acres. In addition reservation of approximately 476,000 acres have been notified preliminarily and awaits final constitution.

135. Mangrove forests have been badly mutilated by uncontrolled felling prior to reservation. Increases in the senior staff which were approved during the year made closer supervision possible. Forest offences reported were 232 as compared with 112 in 1927.

EXPLOITATION

136. For the last five years the total outturn of timber and fuel from reserved and unreserved forests has been, (in tons),—

1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
52,890	64,367	83,081	128,231	134,781

137. No new sawmills were started during the year.

138. A small increase is recorded in outturn of rotan, ataps and getah. The export of damar has fallen slightly.

FINANCIAL

139. Including export duty on forest produce the total revenue derived from forests was \$291,304 as compared with \$246,050 in 1927.

140. Expenditure on Forest Establishments was \$78,699 compared with \$61,539 in 1927.

XI.—GAME WARDEN

141. This department, which was instituted in 1925, consisted of a Game Warden, an Assistant Game Warden and twelve Rangers, stationed at Kluang. The expenditure amounted to \$17,697. Nine elephants found destroying

crops and plantations were shot. Two man-eating tigers were shot by the Warden.

142. Fifty-four passes to destroy big game infesting estates were issued during the year. Twenty-three special passes for big game shooting were given in addition.

XII.—JUDICIAL

SUPREME COURT

143. Ninety-three criminal cases and 40 criminal appeals were registered. Four Criminal Assizes were held at Johore Bahru, four at Muar and four at Batu Pahat.

144. Two hundred and seventy-six civil suits, 31 civil appeals, 158 administration suits and 257 miscellaneous were registered.

145. The Court of Appeal sat on four occasions.

MAGISTRATES' COURTS

146. A compilation of the return of cases is given:—

		<i>Criminal</i>	<i>Civil</i>
		—	—
Johore	...	4,297	569
Kota Tinggi	...	1,196	235
Kukup (including Benut)	...	842	59
Muar	...	3,641	960
Batu Pahat	...	1,746	733
Endau	...	282	38
Segamat	...	1,237	250
Kluang	...	1,014	79
		14,255	2,923

147. During the year new Law Courts were completed at Muar and Batu Pahat.

148. Convictions of Government subordinates on charges involving dishonesty in financial matters were regrettably numerous. The administration of restriction of rubber exports, an undertaking which was not easy of accomplishment under more developed systems of administration, strained almost to the breaking point the integrity of the none too well educated subordinate service of Johore.

149. Johore has a coast line almost as long as that of the Federated Malay States. It is closer to foreign trade centres

and to the free port of Singapore. It has few coast roads, for use by patrols, and many exits. In the circumstances the temptation to smuggle and to abet smuggling has been insistent to a degree which it is difficult to realise. Evil, in the shape of lowered morale, lives after Restriction.

150. Mr. JUSTICE REAY, Puisne Judge, Straits Settlements, continued to act as Judge during the year.

XIII.—LAND

151. The Revenue for 1927 and 1928 was as follows:—

		1927	1928
		—	—
		\$	\$
<i>Rents—</i>			
Land Rents, Recurrent	...	2,170,588	2,220,422
Land Rents, Annual Licences	...	36,292	44,938
Mining Rents	...	11,306	10,434
Rents of Government Plantation		239	172
<i>Licences—</i>			
Gravel, Stone, etc.	...	2,127	4,252
Mining	...	50	60
Prospecting	...	5,621	5,728
<i>Fees—</i>			
Miscellaneous	...	8,304	5,663
Notices, Warrants, etc.	...	11,585	13,601
Registration of Titles, etc.	...	20,104	20,046
Survey and Demarcation	...	120,304	101,820
Total	...	2,386,520	2,427,136
		1927	1928
		—	—
		\$	\$
<i>Land Sales—</i>			
Premium on Agricultural Land		1,125,309	1,021,593
Premium on Mining Land	...	7,910	9,610
Total	...	1,133,219	1,031,203

152. Other sums collected in 1927 and 1928 but not credited as land revenue were:—

Fees—

		\$	\$
Rubber Dealers Enactment ...	...	124,681	99,108
Burials Enactment ...	...	500	—
Mineral Ores Enactment ...	...	600	500
Sale of Boundary Marks ...	...	9,950	11,469
Sale of Plans ...	...	2,365	1,849
Miscellaneous ...	...	832	16,170
Total ...	...	<u>138,928</u>	<u>129,096</u>
Grand total ...	...	<u>3,658,667</u>	<u>3,587,435</u>

REGISTRATION

153. Registration work in the office of the Commissioner of Lands and Mines is shown in the following table:—

LAND ENACTMENT

	1927	1928
Number of Grants registered ...	983	1,148
Number of transfers registered	1,297	984
Number of charges registered ...	737	844
Other transactions ...	1,179	1,268

MINING ENACTMENT

	1927	1928
Mining Leases issued ..	2	1
Mining Certificates issued ...	28	26
Prospecting Licences ...	62	44
Other transactions ...	18	24
Value of stamps affixed on instruments ...	\$92,344	\$119,320

154. In connection with the Mukim Registers and Surat Sementara under Land Rule 7 the following transactions were registered by collectors:—

	1927	1928
Mukim Registers ...	2,126	2,428
Surat Sementara ...	6,915	6,394
Miscellaneous transactions ...	2,415	1,418
Total ...	<u>11,456</u>	<u>10,340</u>

MUKIM REGISTERS

155. The system of registration by entry in Mukim Register has not yet reached the Districts of Endau and Kota Tinggi. In other Districts a satisfactory amount of work was done. The total number of new Extracts from the Register issued during the year was 4,561.

GENERAL

156. In Endau District the application books were open as usual, but in other Districts they remained closed throughout the year except for genuine "small holdings" applications for padi and other foodstuffs, and applications for the cultivation of West African Oil Palm.

157. The withdrawal of Rubber Restriction brought much relief to Land officers, who will now have more time to devote to the urgent work of settlement.

158. At the close of the year the Register of Foreign Companies showed that 139 such Companies were in operation in the State.

159. The total area of land alienated on the 1st January, 1929, was 1,103,629 acres. This includes a total area of 288,883 acres occupied under approved applications.

XIV.—MARINE

160. The total number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at all Ports of the State during the year was as follows:—

	VESSELS ENTERED		VESSELS CLEARED	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>
Ocean-going steamers ...	108	349,880	108	349,880
Coasting steamers ...	5,296	196,431	5,302	196,748
Sailing vessels ...	12,406	100,816	12,306	185,657

161. These figures show a total increase of 161,015 tons entered and 157,572 tons cleared as compared with 1927.

162. There was again a large increase in the number and tonnage of Japanese ocean-going steamers calling at Batu Pahat to load iron-ore. The total weight of ore so cleared was 584,588 tons.

163. The growth of the maritime trade of the State during the last five years is shown as follows:—

	<i>Total tonnage entered</i>		<i>Total tonnage cleared</i>	
1924	... 401,878½	gross tons	403,245½	gross tons
1925	... 510,835	„ „	511,928	„ „
1926	... 544,670½	„ „	539,487½	„ „
1927	... 576,111½	„ „	574,712½	„ „
1928	... 737,127	„ „	732,285	„ „

REVENUE

164. The total revenue received by the Marine Department from all sources during 1928 was \$51,523.40 as compared with \$50,570 in 1927.

LIGHTS AND BUOYS

165. All lights and buoys were maintained in good condition.

166. The steel structure of the light beacon at Kuala Pontian Besar was renewed. The site for the new lighthouse on the East Coast at Tanjong Tenggara was located and cleared. It is ready for erection of the lighthouse structure as soon as the North-east monsoon is over.

GENERAL

167. There was a marked increase in the number of fishing licences issued, particularly at Batu Pahat and Johore Bahru.

168. Preliminary investigation was made of the silting which is taking place in the Johore River and in all the rivers which flow into the Straits of Tebrau.

169. Examination was made of the question of wharf extension at Muar, where better facilities are badly needed for effective handling of exports from and imports to that portion of the State which lies to the north of the Muar River.

XV.—MEDICAL

VITAL STATISTICS

170. The estimated population (exclusive of immigrants and emigrants) for the year 1928 was 338,392.

BIRTHS

171. The number of births registered was 17,902 (9,221 males and 8,681 females) giving a birth-rate of 54.21 per mille compared with 50.35 per mille and 46.07 per mille for 1927 and 1926.

172. The highest birth-rate according to nationalities was 58.82 per mille amongst Eurasians, the Malays coming next with a ratio of 56.67 per mille.

173. The lowest birth-rate was amongst Europeans, the ratio being 14.00 per mille.

DEATHS

174. The total number of deaths was 11,847 (7 781 males and 4,066 females) giving a death-rate of 35.87 per mille compared with 46.71 per mille and 39.44 per mille in 1927 and 1926.

175. The greatest number of deaths in any one month of the year was registered in May, 1,132, and the lowest in February, 836.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

176. The infantile mortality rate was 161.27 per mille compared with 255.76 per mille in 1927 and 213.26 per mille in 1926.

177. This is the lowest infantile mortality rate yet recorded in Johore.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
—	—	—
Plague	—	—
Cholera	—	—
Small-pox	1	—
Chicken-pox	58	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	10	8
Measles (including German measles)	49	—
Enteric Fever	50	12
Erysipelas	17	5
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica ...	2	2
Diphtheria	3	1

SPECIAL DISEASES

178. *Malaria fever*.—Thirty-five thousand three hundred and fifty cases with 800 deaths. During 1927 there were 47,737 cases with 1,314 deaths. During 1926 there were 39,839 cases with 800 deaths.

179. *Ankylostomiasis*.—Eight thousand one hundred and sixty-five cases with 135 deaths. In 1927 there were 9,724 cases with 163 deaths.

180. *Beri-beri*.—One thousand five hundred and fourteen cases with 174 deaths. In 1927 there were 2,159 cases with 272 deaths.

181. *Dysentery*.—Two thousand eight hundred and sixty five cases with 386 deaths. In 1927 there were 4,257 cases with 243 deaths.

182. *Diarrhoea*.—Two thousand six hundred and seventeen cases with 88 deaths. In 1927 there were 4,257 cases with 243 deaths.

183. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis*.—Six hundred and eighty-three cases with 279 deaths. In 1927 there were 800 cases with 286 deaths.

184. *Pneumonia*.—One thousand four hundred and seventy-three cases with 530 deaths. In 1927 there were 639 cases with 304 deaths.

185. *Vaxes*.—The total number of cases treated was 3,556.

METEOROLOGICAL

186. The following observations were made at Government Hospitals:—

Johore Bahru (South)	...	...	111'69 inches
Kota Tinggi (South-east)	...	...	103'34 ..
Kukup (South-west)	...	...	115'23 ..
Batu Pahat (West)	...	...	100'08 ..
Kluang (Central)	...	...	84'43 ..
Mersing (East)	...	...	130'13 ..
Muar (North-west)	...	...	110'86 ..
Segamat (North)	...	...	77'31 ..

187. *Temperature*.—The highest maximum temperature recorded was 96° F. at Kukup on 17th July, 1928.

188. The lowest maximum temperature recorded was 74° F. at Muar on 20th February, 1928.

189. The highest minimum temperature recorded was 87° F. at Tangkak on 24th February, 1928.

190. The lowest minimum temperature recorded was 66° F. at Kukup on 8th October, 1928.

191. *Vaccinations*.—The total number of vaccinations performed during the year was 21,157 compared with 22,812 in 1927.

HOSPITALS

192. The existing hospitals at Johore Bahru, Kukup, Kota Tinggi, Batu Pahat, Kluang, Mersing, Segamat, Tangkak and Muar were maintained.

193. Admissions were 28,900 compared with 32,147 in 1927. On 31st December, 1927 there were 1,469 patients remaining, and of the total 24,697 were discharged, 51 were transferred, 359 absconded, 2,314 died and 1,479 remained at the end of the year.

194. The percentage of death to the total treated was 8.

OUT-PATIENTS

195. The number of out-patients treated at the various stations was 37,802, the attendances being 78,192.

196. The figures for the year 1927 were 39,362 and 80,077.

MATERNITY WORK

197. Maternity cases admitted to Government Hospitals were 486 as against 294 in 1927.

198. During the year 42 certified midwives were practising in the State and 10 probationers underwent training.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

199. An Infant Welfare Centre was opened early in the year. Two thousand two hundred and eighty-two visits were paid to mothers and infants at their own homes.

200. The total number of attendances at the Clinic cannot be given this year as the Centre is housed in the Government Out-door Dispensary and all the figures are included in the Out-door Dispensary Returns. Next year when the new Centre will be in occupation separate statistics will be available.

MENTAL HOSPITAL

201. The number of patients remaining on 31st December, 1927 was 240, there were 119 admissions making a total of 359. Of these 44 were discharged, 1 was transferred, 2 absconded, 45 died and 267 (213 males and 54 females) remained at the close of the year.

LEPER ASYLUM

202. There were 73 lepers in the Asylum at the end of 1927, and 9 females in the Singapore Leper Camp. Forty-eight males and 6 females were admitted during the year. Eleven males and 1 female died. Twenty-nine males absconded. Remaining on 31st December, 1928, males 76 and females 14 in Singapore.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

203. *Anti-Malaria Measures.*—The Anti-Malaria Board met once a month throughout the year. A considerable number of permanent works were carried out in Johore Bahru, smaller works were undertaken at Mersing, Batu Pahat and Segamat.

204. Oiling measures were carried out extensively during the year, a sum of \$55,000 being spent on this service.

205. In addition to the works referred to above and carried out by Government a number of works of a permanent nature were undertaken and paid for by private land owners under orders issued by the Anti-Malaria Board.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS

206. Three thousand one hundred and twenty school children were examined during the year.

ESTATES

207. The number of Estates (over 25 acres in area) in Johore is as follows:—

	<i>No.</i>	<i>Total Acreage</i>	<i>Acreage Planted</i>	<i>Labour Force</i>
	—	—	—	—
100 acres and over	451	475,003	272,783	68,847
25 acres to 100 acres	903	43,186	36,025	—

208. The sick-rate and death-rate for Malaria amongst estate labourers still remains high but the abnormal conditions of the last two years do not persist and the figures for the year 1928 show a definite reduction.

	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Labour Force</i>	<i>Death-rate per mille</i>
	—	—	—
1926	... 367	55,455	6.62
1927	... 542	68,847	7.87
1928	... 361	61,182	5.90

FINANCIAL

209. The expenditure on Personal Emoluments and Other Charges came to \$867,087, compared with \$777,765 in 1927. Revenue amounted to \$73,967.

210. Of an extensive building programme approved for 1928 the most important services were an Infant Welfare Centre at Johore Bahru, a new Leper Asylum for 75 patients

and new first class Wards and Xray unit at the General Hospital, Johore Bahru.

XVI.—MILITARY

211. The total strength of the Forces at the end of the year was 608, being 48 short of the authorised strength. The signal section has increased to 14 and will be increased to 24 in 1929. The Sergeant Instructor (lent by the Singapore Garrison) reports that the work of this section is excellent.

212. Drills and instruction both at Headquarters and out-stations were carried out according to the syllabus prepared by Lieutenant-Colonel B. A. THOMPSON, Military Adviser. Discipline continues to be satisfactory.

213. Health was good throughout the year. The hospital at Johore Bahru has now been placed under the direct supervision of the Principal Medical Officer: the appointment of Medical Officer to the Military Forces has ceased to exist.

214. By invitation of His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, Malaya, a Company of the Johore Military Forces took part in a tactical exercise at Tebrau on the 22nd July, with the Johore Volunteer Engineers and Johore Volunteer Forces.

215. Musketry was of its usual high standard. The Royal Johore Challenge Cup was won by the Johore Military Forces for the fifth successive year, sixteen teams competing for it. Teams represented the Johore Military Forces at five local rifle meetings as well as at Bisley.

216. A detachment of the Johore Military Forces, by invitation of His Excellency the General Officer Commanding, Malaya, took part in the Parade held at Singapore in honour of His Majesty the King's Birthday.

217. Considerable progress was made with the Lewis Gun.

218. The Johore Volunteer Forces were maintained at their full strength of 400 men. There are contingents at Johore Bahru; Muar, Batu Pahat and Mersing, and the report of their progress is generally satisfactory. At Batu Pahat and Mersing the musketry shows particular promise.

JOHORE VOLUNTEER ENGINEERS

219. The strength of the unit was 226 all ranks as compared with 261 in 1927. This was the first year in which the unit trained as Engineers.

220. The percentage of Volunteers classified as efficient was 73.58. The number of men firing their musketry course

was 129 as compared with 128 in 1927. The standard reached was about the same.

221. The total expenditure was \$45,345 or about \$200 per Volunteer.

XVII.—MINES

222. The Mines Department consists of a Warden of Mines, an Inspector and two Overseers.

223. The expenditure for the year amounted to \$17,502 against an estimate of \$17,803 and an expenditure of \$17,105 in 1927.

224. The total revenue derived from mining (including premia and rents) amounted to \$547,277 against \$428,603 in 1927, an increase of \$118,674.

225. Details are as follows:—

	1927	1928
	\$	\$
<i>Export duty on—</i>		
(i) Tin-ore ...	220,928	197,643
(ii) Iron-ore ...	181,364	322,318
(iii) China Clay ...	824	985
Premia on Leases ...	7,910	9,610
Rents on Leases ...	11,306	10,433
<i>Licences—</i>		
(i) Prospecting ...	5,621	5,728
(ii) Ore Buyers ...	600	500
(iii) Individual ...	50	60
	<u>428,603</u>	<u>547,277</u>

226. Minerals to the value of \$5,342,295 were exported and paid \$520,945 in duty: an increase of \$923,114 in value and \$117,829 in duty.

227. *Tin Ore*.—Eighteen thousand four hundred and twenty-four pikuls were exported against 16,374 pikuls in 1927—an increase of 2,050 pikuls.

228. *Iron Ore*.—Six hundred and forty-four thousand six hundred and thirty-five tons of haematite were exported against 409,241 tons: an increase of 235,394.

229. *China Clay*.—Nine hundred and eighty-five tons were exported against 824, an increase of 161 tons.

230. Labour was fairly plentiful: there was an increase of 1,190 in the total labour force: 206 in the iron mines, 984 in the tin mines.

231. The total labour force employed amounted to 4,431 persons. Machinery of 731½ H.P. was in use—the nett result being a labour force and machinery equivalent to 10,683 units.

232. Details are—

(i) Open Cast Mines	...	...	4,378
Lampan	...	...	453
Under ground	...	...	—
(ii) Working on Tribute	...	...	2,703
,, ,, Wages	...	...	680
,, ,, Contract	...	...	1,448
(iii) Working in Tin Mines	...	...	3,320
,, ,, Iron Mines	...	...	1,495
,, ,, China Clay	...	...	16

233. Gravel pump installations are in use at Jemaluang: suction dredges in the Tingkil valley: compressed air plant in the iron mines.

234. Eleven thousand eight hundred and seventy acres were held under mining title or approved application at the end of the year.

235. Forty-three Prospecting licences covering 33,950 acres were issued. Prospecting results were, generally, disappointing.

XVIII.—POLICE

236. The strength of the Force was on the 31st December, 1,074 all ranks, the approved establishment being 1,117.

237. At the close of the year there were 65 Police Stations, of which 12 are headquarters of Police Districts. The new Police Headquarters Office at Johore Bahru was occupied in January. New Police Stations and barracks were completed at Sungei Buntu and Parit Lahak. Additional barracks were in course of construction at Johore Bahru at the close of the year. Telephone extensions were effected to six stations hitherto unconnected.

RECRUITMENT AND DISCIPLINE

238. During the year 122 Malays and 9 Sikhs were enlisted. There were 221 Malay and 19 Sikh applicants.

239. Discipline remained unsatisfactory, there being 1,032 offences against 1,022 in 1927, 491 being cases of absence from duty.

HEALTH

240. Three hundred and eighteen members of the force were admitted to Hospital and 3,880 were treated as out-patients. There were 7 deaths. Sixteen men were discharged as medically unfit.

CRIME

241. The total number of offences of all kinds reported was 12,271 compared with 14,954 in 1927 and 13,225 in 1926.

242. The following table shows the main headings of crime for the past three years:—

	1926	1927	1928
Murder and Homicide ...	50	69	54
Gang-robbery ...	14	17	24
Robbery ...	26	78	73
House-breaking ...	74	94	84
Thefts (over \$100) ...	174	164	121
Counterfeit coin and Stamps	—	10	8
Unlawful Societies ...	14	4	26

243. Unlawful Societies remain a serious menace. One hundred and fifty-six persons were banished from the State as compared with 126 in 1927. Eighty-two Chinese and 8 of other nationalities were repatriated as vagrants.

FIREARMS

244. Three thousand three hundred and seventy-three firearms were registered against 3,639 in 1927.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

245. Eleven thousand two hundred and fifty-five weights and measures were verified by the Police Department, the work being under the control of a Malay Inspector.

MOTOR CARS AND DRIVERS

246. The registration of Traction Engines and Motor Cars is in the hands of the Town Boards at Johore Bahru, Muar, Batu Pahat, Mersing and Segamat. The Chief Police Officers at Johore Bahru, Muar and Batu Pahat continued to license drivers under the Enactment. Fourteen certificates were cancelled by the Licensing Officers and 23 were suspended for varying periods.

NOXIOUS ANIMALS

247. Seven tigers, 1 leopard and 41 crocodiles were destroyed and handed over to the Police. The total number of persons reported killed by noxious animals was 39, being 24 by tigers, 10 by crocodiles, 2 by snakes, nil by elephants and 3 by buffaloes.

EXPENDITURE

248. The expenditure was \$734,952 compared with \$690,284 in 1927.

XIX.—POST OFFICE

249. A comparison of the business done during the past three years is as follows:—

	1926	1927	1928
	—	—	—
Letters, papers and parcels received ...	4,613,572	4,200,067	4,335,873
Letters, papers and parcels despatched ...	3,117,096	2,800,466	2,595,971
Value of Money Orders issued ...	\$875,939	\$872,940	\$821,580
Value of Money Orders paid ...	\$212,842	\$235,644	\$242,212

250. The revenue was \$262,415 and the expenditure \$169,914.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES

251. The total wire mileage under control of the Chief Telegraph Engineer and maintained by the Johore Government is 1,641 miles and 60 chains. At the end of 1926 the mileage was 822. It has been doubled in two years.

252. Twenty-eight telephone exchanges were maintained during the year with 502 miles of pole line.

XX.—PRISONS

PRISON POPULATION

253. Admissions to the two State Prisons, Johore Bahru and Muar totalled 1,598 as against 1,774 in 1927.

254. The daily average numbers for 1927 and 1928 are shown in the following table:—

	1927		1928	
	<i>Johore Bahru</i>	<i>Muar</i>	<i>Johore Bahru</i>	<i>Muar</i>
Civil Prisoners ...	11'30	14'13	17'04	23'94
Convicted Prisoners	383'58	143'39	416'12	143'94

255. Convicted Prisoners in the State Prisons numbered as follows:—

	<i>Johore Bahru</i>	<i>Muar</i>
Remaining on 1st January, 1928	367	118
Admitted during 1928	1,079	519
Total	1,446	637
Released during 1928	1,073	469
Transferred	4	54
Escaped	1	—
Died	12	—
Executed	5	—
Remaining on 31st December, 1928	351	114
Total	1,446	637

256. Classification of Prisoners on 31st December, 1928.

	<i>Johore Baru</i>	<i>Muar</i>	<i>Total</i>
Long Sentence	153	—	153
Short Sentence	198	114	312
Prisoners on Remand	20	15	35
Awaiting Banishment	23	7	30
Detained during His Highness's Pleasure	2	—	2
Total	396	136	532

HEALTH

257. There were 15 deaths in the Prison Hospital at Johore Bahru.

258. The average daily number in hospital was—

Johore Bahru	...	...	...	17'79
Muar	...	...	...	5'48

DISCIPLINE

259. Two hundred and thirty-three offences by prisoners were dealt with and thirteen floggings were inflicted. There were no serious disorders in either prison.

LABOUR

260. At Johore Bahru an average of 153'91 prisoners was engaged by the Public Works Department on extramural labour, including extensive reclamation operations at Sungei Chat.

261. Prisoners undergoing hard labour were also employed in baking, carpentering, chick-making, tailoring, husk-beating, making of baskets, rattan chairs and coir-mats, laundry work and cooking inside the prison.

262. At Muar the daily average number of prisoners engaged on extramural work was 64'43. Useful work was done for the Public Works Department and a large amount of stone was broken for road metal.

RECIDIVISM

263. Of the prisoners admitted during the year 35 had one, 6 two and 4 three or more previous convictions.

EXECUTIONS

264. Five executions were carried out at Johore Bahru.

STAFF

265. The European Staff at Johore Bahru was maintained at full strength and included, in addition to the Inspector of Prisons, the Gaoler and four Warders.

266. The Gaol in Muar was in charge of the Assistant Adviser as District Superintendent and an European Gaoler and a Warder.

EXPENDITURE

267. The expenditure on the maintenance of the Johore Bahru Prison amounted to \$167,104.52 against \$165,311 in 1927. The expenditure at Muar was \$57,873.33 against \$56,354 in 1927.

REVENUE

268. A sum of \$9,995.71 was received from the laundry, bakery and workshops at Johore Bahru, and \$330.67 was collected at Muar.

VAGRANT WARDS

269. The two State Prisons at Johore Bahru and Muar are also vagrant wards under the Vagrancy Enactment, 1921. Ninety-five vagrants were admitted and nine remained at the end of the year. Of the vagrants admitted 89.36 per cent were Chinese.

GENERAL

270. The number of Malays convicted (in the two prisons) has decreased from 386 in 1927 to 160 in 1928. The number of Javanese and Sumatrans has decreased from 134 to 76. The reason is the cessation of rubber smuggling due to the abandonment of restriction of rubber exports.

271. The number of Chinese convicted has increased from 1,046 in 1927 to 1,185 in 1928.

XXI.—PUBLIC WORKS

272. The provision and expenditure during the year were—

			\$
Provision	...	...	9,868,230
Expenditure	...	...	7,506,474

273. The expenditure exceeded that of 1927 by \$607,206. The cost of supervision was 6.18 per cent of the total expenditure.

WORKS AND BUILDINGS

274. The expenditure was as follows:—

			\$
Annually Recurrent	...	...	219,727
Special Services	...	...	2,604,056

275. Under Special Services anti-malarial work was carried out in the Johore Bahru, Endau and Batu Pahat Districts at a cost of \$44,864.

276. River clearing was continued on the Tiram and Senggarang Rivers, \$29,688 being spent. On the Tiram River a snagging barge is used.

277. In the Johore Bahru District \$977,076 was expended under this heading. The new Supreme Court Building was nearly completed at the end of December, \$125,000 having

been spent thereon during the year. Good progress was also made with construction of the Leper Asylum on which a sum of \$114,150 was spent during the year. Among completed works were six quarters for schoolmasters, barrack buildings for Police, Hospital Dressers and Firemen, five permanent cooly lines and one quarters for a European officer. Construction of the new Johore Civil Service Club building was commenced.

278. In the Muar District some progress was made in re-construction of the Mosque at Bandar Maharani. The English School was enlarged, by addition of a new wing, at a cost of \$38,059. The new Law Courts were completed, the total cost being \$113,270. A new Rest House was completed and opened in April. Hospital buildings completed included two sets of quarters for Assistant Surgeons, quarters for fourteen attendants and wards with accommodation for fifty-two patients. Barracks for Artisans, two large cooly lines and new abattoirs were built for the Town Board. Other buildings finished were one quarters for European officer, three sets of quarters for Malay officers and six sets of semi-detached quarters for subordinates.

279. The total expenditure on Special Services, Works and Buildings in the Muar District was slightly in excess of \$800,000.

280. In the Batu Pahat District a total sum of \$329,607 was expended on similar Services, the principal items being a reinforced concrete wharf, a Court house, 18 terrace houses for subordinates, two Vernacular Schools and a Maternity Ward.

281. In the Segamat District \$133,549 was spent. The most important buildings were a Police Station and quarters at Buloh Kasap and six sets of quarters for subordinates.

282. At Kota Tinggi Hospital a 16 bed ward and 10 attendants quarters were completed. New Police Stations and quarters were built at Telok Romania and Bekok and a new Public Works Office at Mersing.

ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES

283. The provision and expenditure for the year was as follows:—

ANNUALLY RECURRENT		SPECIAL SERVICES	
<i>Provision</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Provision</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
\$	\$	\$	\$
1,024,000	1,011,070	2,050,098	1,748,146

ANNUALLY RECURRENT

284. The mileage of Roads upkept during the year was as under :—

	TOWN		COUNTRY	
	<i>Main</i>	<i>Approach Roads and Back Lanes</i>	<i>Metalled</i>	<i>Nature</i>
Johore Bahru	44'67	12'18	94'83	—
Muar ...	18'60	9'25	126'52	3'42
Segamat ...	5'45	2'21	80'87	—
Batu Pahat ...	10'75	4'31	77'52	3'50
Kluang ...	5'05	1'00	95'12	2'00
Mersing ...	3'75	1'75	39'00	27'50
Kota Tinggi	3'68	8'20	43'14	1'85
Total ...	91'95	38'90	557'00	38'27

285. The total cost of maintaining these roads was \$935,488 or \$1,361 a mile.

SPECIAL SERVICES

ROAD EXTENSION SCHEME

286. During the year 18½ miles were completed, making a total of 313½ miles built under this scheme at the end of 1928.

287. The original scheme proposed by the Government of this State in agreement with the Federated Malay States Government included roads from Renchong to Labis and from Mersing to Endau. The agreement was varied in 1923 and for the roads mentioned were substituted the Gunong Pulai—Pontian Kechil and Yong Peng—Paloh roads.

288. On two roads only, comprised in this scheme, was constructional work still in progress at the end of the year, the Ayer Hitam—Muar Road and the Gunong Pulai—Pontian Kechil Road. Both of these roads are nearing completion. To the end of 1928 a total sum of \$5,668,052 had been expended under this scheme.

NEW ROADS

289. The expenditure was \$403,583 as compared with \$347,650 in 1927.

290. *Muar District.*—Progress was made with the Muar-Labis, Lubok Kedondong and Parit Jawa—Ayer Hitam

Roads. Total construction and metalling completed was three miles.

291. *Batu Pahat District.*—The road from Senggarang was completed as far as Benut and opened to light traffic.

292. *Segamat District.*—Work was done for resurfacing and strengthening the Tenang-Labis Road. On the Yong Peng—Labis Road (26 miles) earthwork was completed to the tenth mile from Labis with metalling, bridges and culverts to the fourth mile.

293. *Kota Tinggi District.*—On the Plentong-Masai Road three miles of earthwork and three-and-a-half miles of metalling were completed. This road should be completed in 1929.

GENERAL

294. A sum just short of \$30,000 was spent on drainage of the Muar Town Board area. There is room for considerable and remunerative expenditure on drainage of the west coastal area. A great deal has been done in this direction both by immigrant settlers and by the Government. It is clear however that for the purpose of ensuring effective cultivation of certain fertile areas of wide extent the construction of a few major drains is expedient. In one area work has been started and further schemes are being considered. The installation of tidal gates on main outlets has been taken in hand.

295. The road mileage treated with bitumen in some form or another, now exceeds 150 miles, or about 22% of the metalled mileage. Good progress was made on the Johore Bahru—Batu Pahat Road during the year. Over this section machine mixed asphalt macadam is used.

296. On replacement of temporary by permanent bridges a total sum of \$75,895 was expended.

297. A reinforced concrete bridge over the Kesang River was completed at a cost of \$52,000. Work on similar bridges at Pontian Kechil and Labis was commenced.

298. Three new crushing plants were installed and put into operation.

299. Good progress was made with the laying of the 12" trunk main at Johore Bahru, the work being practically complete at the end of the year. The 12" and 9" supply mains from the Singapore supply main have also been laid.

300. The Muar improvement scheme was partially finished at the end of the year. The new covered reservoir at Bukit Treh, holding 850,000 gallons and costing \$77,000 was completed. The new concrete dam at Pengkalan Bukit was completed at a cost of \$75,000.

301. At Batu Pahat \$10,000 was spent on improvements to the water supply. A small pumping scheme with Jewell Filter was completed for Buloh Kasap at a cost of \$21,166.

302. Progress was made with the new Electric Power Stations at Johore Bahru and Muar. It was not found possible to complete either of these during the year owing to unavoidable delays. The old electric supply is not now sufficient for the needs of Johore Bahru. Restrictions on use were necessary throughout the year. The accounts show a profit of \$6,470 on the year's working.

XXII.—STATE RAILWAY

303. The Johore State Railway, which extends from Johore Bahru in the South to Gemas in the North where connection is made with the Federated Malay States Railways, was constructed by the Federated Malay States Railways at the expense of the Johore Government at a cost, including rolling stock, of \$11,676,310.

304. The railway was leased to the Federated Malay States Government for 21 years from the 1st January, 1912, at the following annual rental:—

	\$
For each of the years 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 and 1916 a rent of ...	110,000
For each of the years 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920 and 1921 a rent of ...	220,000
For each of the years 1922, 1923, 1924, and 1925 a rent of ...	357,000
For each of the years 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 a rent of	470,000

305. On 30th June, 1919, a contract was entered into by the Crown Agents for the Colonies on behalf of the Federated Malay States Government with Messrs. TOPHAM JONES & RAILTON for the construction of a causeway across the Straits between Johore Bahru and Woodlands to carry two tracks of railway and a 26 foot roadway. Work was commenced towards the end of 1919 and the causeway was opened for goods trains on the 17th September, 1923, and for passenger trains on the 1st October, 1923, replacing the passenger and wagon ferries. On the Johore side is a lock through which small vessels may pass, a rolling lift bridge carrying the railway and road across the lock.

306. The total mileage of the Johore State Railway on the 31st December, 1928, was as follows:—

Running Lines						Sidings reduced to single track		Total of single track including sidings		Year 1927 Total of single track including sidings	
Length of Road single Track		Second Track		Total miles reduced to single track							
M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.	M.	C.
120	73	4	76	125	69	7	62	133	51	132	58

307. During the year under review a new Station Building and additional goods accommodation were provided at Rengam. Twenty-one units subordinate staff and forty-six units menial staff quarters were built. New Station Buildings at Johore Bahru, Kluang and Kempas are approved for erection.

308. The Railway is worked throughout on the Electric Train Tablet system. At the end of 1928 there were 19 permanent stations and four flag stations. An excellent service is maintained. No difficulty was experienced in prompt removal for export of the surplus stocks of rubber which were liberated when restriction of rubber exports ceased.

XXIII.—SURVEYS

309. The average effective strength of the staff throughout the year was 82 including the Superintendent and nine European Surveyors.

310. The total expenditure of the Survey Department was \$305,612 as compared with \$266,665 in 1927. The total revenue was \$114,762. A total area of 72,486 acres was surveyed in 8,991 lots. The average cost was 81 cents a chain.

311. Documents of title sent to Land Offices for issue were 1,530 duplicate titles and 4,256 mukim extracts.

312. At the end of the year there were with the Survey Office unsatisfied requisitions for survey of 176,734 acres in 24,906 lots.

313. Effort was concentrated on the survey of small holdings. As a result of the heavy arrears of work awaiting survey re-settlement has been found in many cases to be necessary.

314. Ten Assistant Surveyors and apprentices attended the camp organised at Port Dickson by the Surveyor-General, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, for a refresher course in February. Three senior officers attended as instructors.

315. The main need of the Department is an increased subordinate field staff. Very considerable progress was made in recruitment and training during the year but there is a great deal of spade work still to be done before adequacy is reached. It is worthy of note that there now appears amongst the staff a distinct leaning towards field work rather than office work. This is a healthy sign. A revised scheme for subordinate officers, based on the Federated Malay States Scheme, was prepared and approved. It comes into force from the 1st January, 1929.

316. A scheme for preliminary demarcation of small holdings was prepared after consultation with Mr. J. DEWAR, Assistant Surveyor-General, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements, and before the end of the year eight Malay subordinate officers were employed thereon in the field. It is hoped by this means to accelerate the mapping of small holdings occupied without title. The area of land so occupied in Johore is not less than 250,000 acres.

XXIV.—TOWN BOARDS

JOHORE BAHRU

317. This Board is in charge of the townships of Johore Bahru, Tebrau, Rengam, Kluang, Scudai, Paloh and Sedenak, and of the villages of Bekok, Layang-Layang, Mengkibol and Senai, which have been declared Town Board areas under section 50 of the Enactment. The by-laws made applicable to these areas are those which concern building and conservancy. No revenue was collected from these villages.

318. The total revenue collected by the Board was \$389.998 compared with \$341,543 in 1927.

319. Expenditure was \$164,429 as against \$191,326 in 1927.

320. The Fire Brigade was called out on three occasions only to deal with small outbreaks of fire. Expenditure on the Brigade was \$16,618 as compared with \$17,044 in 1927.

KOTA TINGGI

321. The revenue in 1928 was \$23,181 against \$22,351 in 1927. A great deal of reclamation work was done during the year within the Town Board area. Some further work remains to be done. The flooding of the village has been further relieved by river clearing.

MUAR

322. The Muar Board is in charge of the townships of Bandar Maharani, Panchor, Tangkak, Parit Jawa, Sungei

Idrus and Bukit Pasir, and supervises sanitary work in the villages of Serom, Parit Bakar, Sungei Renchong, Tanjong Agas, Bukit Kangka, Sagil Luar, Bekoh, Gersek and Simpang Jeram.

323. The revenue was \$313,163 in 1928 compared with \$267,563 in 1927, \$92,350 being collected on account of licences for motor vehicles.

BATU PAHAT

324. This Board is in charge of the townships of Bandar Penggaram (Batu Pahat) and Senggarang and supervises sanitary work in the villages of Benut, Rengit, Parit Kemang, Semrah, Pesrai, Yong Peng, Sri Gading and Hup Choon Kang.

325. The revenue was \$196,274 compared with \$153,618 in 1927. Taxes on motor vehicles accounted for \$8,379 of this increase.

ENDAU

326. This Board is in charge of the townships of Mersing and Jemaluang. The revenue for 1928 was \$22,162. Revenue from taxes on motor vehicles amounted to \$6,125. The figures for 1927 were \$19,356 and \$4,244.

SEGAMAT

327. This Board was at the beginning of the year in charge of the townships of Segamat, Batu Anam, Buloh Kasap and Labis and (under section 50 of the Enactment) of Kampong Gunting, Jabi, Jementah and Kampong Jalan Genuang. Segamat and Labis show signs of great expansion. The Segamat water supply was completed during the year and considerable progress was made with the supply for Buloh Kasap.

328. The revenue was \$62,901 compared with \$45,733 in 1927. House and Land Assessment were collected at Segamat and Batu Anam only. Taxes on motor vehicles amounted to \$21,876.

XXV.—VETERINARY

329. This Department was in charge of His Highness Tungku ABU BAKAR with Veterinary Inspectors at Johore Bahru, Muar and Batu Pahat. In the out-stations the Assistant Surgeons are in charge of Veterinary work.

330. An outbreak of rinderpest occurred at Segamat and Tangkak, 227 cattle being affected 199 of which died. There was a mild outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease at Muar among imported cattle in the quarantine station.

331. Careful attention is given to meat inspection. All animals slaughtered for human consumption are inspected before and after slaughter. A new abattoir for pigs was completed at Johore Bahru and taken into use.

332. Dairy animals and their sheds are inspected regularly and are in satisfactory and improving condition. No dairies are allowed inside Town Board limits.

333. The total number of animals imported and exported was as follows:—

	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Oxen</i>	<i>Sheep and goats</i>	<i>Swine</i>
	—	—	—	—
Import ...	4	1,540	1,982	16,530
Export ...	4	87	65	3,613

XXVI.—STAFF

334. MALAY STAFF

Dato ISMAIL BIN BACHOK was appointed State Secretary of the State of Johore from 1st January, 1928.

Dato MUSTAPHA BIN JA'AFAR was appointed Mentri Besar from 17th September, 1928.

Ungku ALI BIN ABDULLAH succeeded Ungku OMAR BIN AHMAD as President of the Religious Department on the 1st August, 1928.

Ungku MOHAMED SALLEH BIN MAHAMOOD succeeded Ungku ALI BIN ABDULLAH as State Commissioner, Endau, on the 1st August, 1928.

335. The following Malay Officers retired in the course of the year:—

Ungku OMAR BIN AHMAD, President of the Religious Department.

Inche ABDUL GHAFFAR BIN ARSHAD, Magistrate, Batu Pahat.

336. EUROPEAN STAFF

Mr. G. T. HOLFORD succeeded Mr. F. C. MARSHALL as Warden of Mines in July.

Mr. N. F. H. MATHER, M.C.S., assumed duty as Assistant Adviser, Segamat, on the 15th May, taking over from Mr. D. WILLS, M.C.S., who had been acting temporarily since the departure on leave of Mr. W. S. EBDEN, M.C.S., on the 21st March.

Mr. H. W. WOOLLEY of the Malayan Forest Service succeeded Mr. J. R. N. CHARTER as Conservator of Forests in March.

JOHORE BAHRU,
21st April, 1929.

G. E. SHAW.
General Adviser, Johore.

APPENDICES

	PAGE
<i>A.</i> —Assets and Liabilities, 1927 and 1928 ...	48
<i>B.</i> —Revenue Receipts	49
<i>C.</i> —Expenditure	49
<i>D.</i> —Statistical Returns, 1924 - 1928 ...	50

APPENDIX A

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1928, with corresponding figures for 1927

LIABILITIES	31st Dec., 1927		31st Dec., 1928		ASSETS		31st Dec., 1927		31st Dec., 1928	
	\$	c.	\$	c.			\$	c.	\$	c.
Deposits	5,660,984	09	1,737,892	40	Cash in Treasuries at Bank and with Crown Agents	...	6,055,286	04	4,908,154	99
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	7,704,199	28	9,369,428	64	Cash in Transit	...	101,711	01	223,547	03
Toh Ah Boon Education Fund	20,789	14	...	...	INVESTMENTS (at cost):—					
Suspense	46,270	66	30,616	61	Sterling Securities ...12,877,502 70)					
Surplus	20,826,057	84	25,078,661	72	S. S. Government and Municipal Sterling Securities ... 1,047,555 01					
					Fixed Deposits ... 6,500,000 00)		19,323,928	47	20,425,057	71
					INVESTMENTS SPECIFIC FUNDS (at cost):—					
					Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund		7,704,199	28	9,369,428	64
					Toh Ah Boon Fund		20,789	14	...	...
					Due by other Governments		137,973	70	123,105	53
					Stock of Chandu		58,614	23	33,850	01
					Advances		154,671	64	130,806	34
					Loans		107,652	50	145,506	26
					Suspense (Temporary Investment)		593,475	00	857,142	86
Total	34,258,301	01	36,216,599	37	Total		34,258,301	01	36,216,599	37

APPENDIX B

*Comparative Statement of Actual Revenue
for 1927 and 1928*

Head of Revenue	Actual 1927	Actual 1928	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land Revenue ...	2,380,293	2,444,690	64,397	...
Forest Revenue ..	152,435	176,812	24,377	...
Customs ...	5,905,439	8,846,787	2,941,348	...
Licences, Excise etc. ...	6,113,477	5,052,533	...	1,060,944
Fees of Court etc. ...	224,355	278,953	54,598	...
Posts and Telegraphs ...	238,299	252,238	13,939	...
Railways ...	470,000	587,500	117,500	...
Port and Harbour Dues ...	42,046	43,316	1,270	...
Interest ...	719,292	932,012	212,720	...
Miscellaneous Receipts ...	17,972	52,832	34,860	...
Municipal ...	838,516	1,000,593	162,077	...
Land Sales ...	1,136,899	1,029,811	...	107,088
Total ...	18,239,023	20,698,077	3,627,086	1,168,032

APPENDIX C

*Comparative Statement of Actual Expenditure for
1927 and 1928*

Head of Expenditure	Actual 1927	Actual 1928	Increase	Decrease
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Pensions ...	344,096 63	352,346 28	8,249 65	...
Personal Emolu- ments ...	3,836,076 82	4,183,274 28	347,197 46	...
Other Charges ...	2,727,269 62	3,008,511 55	281,241 93	...
Transport ...	41,968 07	50,777 23	8,809 16	...
Opium Reserve Fund ...	1,249,998 00	1,249,998 93	93	...
Miscellaneous ...	575,562 19	436,458 01	...	139,104 18
Purchase of Land	161,838 58	206,594 41	44,755 83	...
Public Works (A. R.) ...	1,635,458 34	1,737,984 30	102,525 96	...
Public Works (S. S.) ...	4,776,205 24	5,219,527 91	443,322 67	...
Total ...	15,348,473 49	16,445,472 90	1,236,103 59	139,104 18

APPENDIX D.

STATISTICAL RETURN OF PROGRESS, 1924 - 1928

		<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
		—	—
		\$	\$
1924	...	10,947,960	8,095,276
1925	...	15,884,592	9,780,322
1926	...	18,781,565	18,099,232
1927	...	18,239,023	15,348,473
1928	...	20,698,077	16,445,473

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report.

[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.] 4s. 0d. (4s. 6d.).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies. [Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

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REPORT
ON THE
STATE OF BRUNEI
FOR THE YEAR
1928

BY

R. J. F. CURTIS,
British Resident, Brunei

SINGAPORE :

Printed at the GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, SINGAPORE,
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1929

CONTENTS.

PREFACE.

	PAGE.
HISTORY	1
GEOGRAPHY	2

ERRATA

STATE OF BRUNEI.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1928.

Page 10. (B). Raw Material.

Plantation Rubber—Quantity 1928.

For “1,209,680” read “1,669,679”.

Page 27. APPENDIX C.

Temburong—Plantation Rubber exported 1928.

For “57,092” read “517,692”.

Total—Plantation Rubber exported 1928.

For “1,209,679” read “1,669,679”.

A. ABSTRACT OF REVENUE, 1926, 1927 AND 1928 ...	25
B. ABSTRACT OF EXPENDITURE, 1926, 1927 AND 1928	26
C. DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS, 1925, 1927 AND 1928	27
D. RAINFALL IN VARIOUS PLACES	31
E. THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS, BRUNEI TOWN	32
SKETCH MAP OF BRUNEI	

CONTENTS.

PREFACE.

	PAGE.
HISTORY	1
GEOGRAPHY	2
CLIMATE	2
LANGUAGES	2
CURRENCY	2
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	3

ANNUAL REPORT, 1928.

I. GENERAL	3
II. FINANCE	3
III. PRODUCTION	7
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	9
V. COMMUNICATIONS	13
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS	17
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	19
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH	20
IX. EDUCATION	21
X. LANDS AND SURVEYS	22
XI. LABOUR	23
XII. MISCELLANEOUS	24

APPENDICES.

A. ABSTRACT OF REVENUE, 1926, 1927 AND 1928 ...	25
B. ABSTRACT OF EXPENDITURE, 1926, 1927 AND 1928	26
C. DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS, 1926, 1927 AND 1928	27
D. RAINFALL IN VARIOUS PLACES	31
E. THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS, BRUNEI TOWN	32

SKETCH MAP OF BRUNEI

THE STATE OF BRUNEI.

REPORT OF THE BRITISH RESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

Preface.

HISTORY.

A State named Puni, 45 days' sail from Java, is mentioned several times in the annals of the Sung dynasty, which ruled over Southern China from about 960 to 1280 A. D., and it is practically certain that this is Brunei. In the 13th and 14th centuries Brunei owed allegiance alternately to Meja-pahit and Malacca. The Sultanate rose to great power in the early years of the 16th century in the reign of NAKODA RAGAM and its authority extended not only over the Northern part of the Island of Borneo but over the Sulu Islands and part of the Philippines.

The first European account of Brunei is that of PIGAFETTA, who visited it in 1521, and was greatly impressed by the splendour of the Court and the size of the Town, the population of which he estimated at 25,000 families.

Towards the end of the 16th century the power of Brunei began to decline and by the middle of the 19th century it had fallen hopelessly into decay and only a small part of its former territory remained. Sarawak was ceded to Sir JAMES BROOKE in 1841 and concessions were made at later dates to the British North Borneo Company and to the Sarawak Government till Brunei has been reduced to its present boundaries.

In 1888, the Sultan agreed that Great Britain should control his foreign relations and in 1906 a new agreement was made whereby a British Resident was appointed who became the Agent and Representative of His Britannic Majesty's Government under the High Commissioner for the Malay States and whose advice must be asked and acted upon in all questions other than those touching Mohammedan religion. This followed the system existing in the States of the Malay Peninsula under British Protection. The Secretary to the High Commissioner in Singapore is the channel of communication between the Resident and the High Commissioner. The Resident is invariably an officer of the Malayan Civil Service.

The present Sultan who was born on 30th Ramadan, 1331 A. H. (8th September, 1913) is His Highness AHMED TAJUDIN AKHAZUL KHAIRI WADIN ibni Almerhum Sultan MOHAMED JEMALULALAM, K.C.M.G., and succeeded his father in September, 1924. During his minority the Duli Pengiran BENDAHARA and the Duli Pengiran PEMANCHA have been appointed to act as Joint Regents.

GEOGRAPHY.

The State of Brunei comprises an area of some 2,500 square miles, with a coast line of about 100 miles and lies between $4^{\circ} 5'$ and $5^{\circ} 2'$ N. latitude and $114^{\circ} 7'$ and $115^{\circ} 22'$ E. longitude. Brunei Town is distant by sea 758 nautical miles from Singapore.

It is subdivided for administrative purposes into five districts, Brunei, Tutong, Belait, Temburong and Muara. There is only one town of any size Brunei or Dar-ul-Salam (City of Peace) which is situated 12 miles from the mouth of the Brunei River at Muara and has an estimated population of 13,000. Prior to 1910 it consisted entirely of Malay houses built on nibong piles in the river but it now includes a strip of the mainland, mostly reclaimed, on which all Government buildings, shophouses and many private houses have been erected.

CLIMATE.

The climate is pleasant and healthy without any marked changes of temperature. During the day the temperature lies between 80° to 90° Fahrenheit but a light breeze is generally blowing which moderates the heat. At night the temperature usually falls below 80° .

The average annual rainfall varies between 100 to 200 inches for different parts of the State.

LANGUAGES.

The lingua franca is Malay which differs slightly from that generally spoken in Malaya but the local Bornean races, the Kedayans, Tutongs, Belaits and the Dusuns, have languages of their own.

CURRENCY.

The currency is that of the Straits Settlements. The unit is the silver dollar which is divided into 100 cents. The value of the dollar is fixed at present at two shillings and four pence. Subsidiary silver coins are those of value 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There are also nickel 5 cent coins and copper or mixed metal coins of 1 cent

denomination. There are also currency notes of different denominations from \$1 upwards.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

English and Malay weights and measures are used. A pikul (equivalent to $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.) is subdivided into 100 katties of 16 tahils each. One tahlil consists of 10 chis or 100 hoon and is equivalent to $1\frac{1}{3}$ ounce avoirdupois. A koyan consists of 40 pikuls and is equivalent to $5,333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs. avoirdupois. A gantang is the equivalent of one gallon and a chupak is equal to a quart.

I.—General.

1. His Highness the Sultan and Their Highnesses the Regents enjoyed good health throughout the year. His Highness has commenced to study English and made very good progress by the end of the year.

2. The ceremonies of the marriage between Pengiran ANAK PUTRI BESAR, the eldest sister of His Highness the Sultan and Pengiran MUDA HASHIM, the son of the Duli Pengiran BENDAHARA, commenced on the 18th December and are expected to end in February, 1929.

3. His Excellency the High Commissioner Sir HUGH CLIFFORD, M.C.S., G.C.M.G., G.B.E., accompanied by Lady CLIFFORD paid his first visit to the State in May and opened the reinforced concrete bridge over the Kedayan River, which was completed only a few days before the arrival of His Excellency. The opening ceremony was appropriately performed on Empire Day and the bridge was named Clifford Bridge.

4. Mr. E. E. F. PRETTY, M.C.S., was British Resident till 25th May, when he returned to Singapore with His Excellency the High Commissioner in S. Y. The *Sea Belle II*. He was followed by Mr. P. A. B. MCKERRON, M.C.S., who went on leave at the end of the year and was succeeded by Mr. R. J. CURTIS, M.C.S., on 5th December.

II.—Finance.

5. The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year provided for a revenue of \$405,000 and an expenditure of \$359,404. Budget for 1928.

6. The actual revenue was \$354,762 and the expenditure was \$344,005. The surplus is, therefore, \$10,757 against an estimated surplus of \$45,596. Actual revenue and expenditure.

7. The principal decrease in revenue was under Customs which amounted to \$37,673. This was due to the slump conditions which prevailed after April when the price of rubber commenced to decline.

8. The principal savings in expenditure were under the items Marine \$3,000 and Posts and Telegraphs \$7,000.

9. The following table gives a comparison of revenue and expenditure for the past twenty-two years since the State has been under British protection:—

			<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
			—	—
			\$	\$
1907	...	...	51,777	93,334
1908	...	...	43,539	75,738
1909	...	...	54,562	76,948
1910	...	...	77,051	73,513
1911	...	...	109,430	79,318
1912	...	...	140,847	122,762
1913	...	...	165,082	138,665
1914	...	...	126,647	163,352
1915	...	...	118,972	114,518
1916	...	...	127,615	113,317
1917	...	...	126,301	106,011
1918	...	...	125,726	122,958
1919	...	...	162,020	138,844
1920	...	...	201,250	223,690
1921	...	...	161,520	197,469
1922	...	...	204,504	188,250
1923	...	...	221,767	189,208
1924	...	...	257,474	247,614
1925	...	...	315,261	245,286
1926	...	...	367,344	297,894
1927	...	...	402,134	426,981
1928	...	...	354,762	344,005

10. The Abstracts of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 are shown in Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.

11. The following statement shows the Assets and Liabilities at the end of the past three years:—

Assets and Liabilities.

		31st December, 1926	31st December, 1927	31st December, 1928
LIABILITIES		\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Federated Malay States Loan	...	410,500 00	407,000 00	403,000 00
Straits Settlements Loan	...	14,000 00	12,000 00	10,000 00
Miscellaneous Deposits	...	20,032 90	68,994 53	35,178 28
Land Office Deposits	...	5,398 38	3,274 38	3,390 48
Money Order Deposits	...	2,971 57	4,192 78	5,527 86
Investment Chandu Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	...	12,261 12	27,901 37	45,791 13
Total	...	465,163 97	523,363 06	502,887 75
ASSETS				
Cash in Treasury and Bank	...	205,666 01	182,067 14	154,294 93
Loans (secured)	...	50,955 61	74,710 74	53,057 50
Advances	...	606 50	1,706 84	1,308 63
Suspense	...	1,649 89	7,965 19	12,290 00
Investment (S. S. War Loan Bonds)	...	20,000 00	20,000 00	20,000 00
Investment Chandu Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund	...	12,261 12	27,901 37	45,791 13
Balance of Liabilities over Assets	...	174,024 84	209,011 78	216,145 56
Total	...	465,163 97	523,363 06	502,887 75

12. This fund was started with \$12,261.12 provided out of revenue in 1926 and was invested in various Government securities. An amount equal to 20 per cent. of the annual net revenue from Chandu sales together with accumulated interest has been added each year. The contribution for 1928 was \$16,163.00. The total amount invested on 31st December, 1928, was \$45,791.13.

Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund.

13. The public debt of the State on the 31st December, 1928, totalled \$413,000.

Public debt.

14. The following is a statement of the Loan Accounts in respect of this Debt:—

FEDERATED MALAY STATES ACCOUNT

(A).—LOAN ACCOUNT (31ST DECEMBER, 1928)

	Amount		Amount
	\$		\$
By Loans—		To Redemption of Monopolies (1906—1908)	72,009
1906 ...	200,000	„ Purchase of Tulin's (1906—1909) ...	7,045
1908 (December) ...	20,000	„ Purchase of Cession Monies (1908—1914)	174,377*
1909 (September) ...	80,000		
1911 (March) ...	100,000	„ Capital Expenditure—	\$
1913 (June) ...	20,000	Launch (1906) ...	20,000
1913 (September) ...	13,000	Residency (1906—1907) ...	8,000
1914 (April) ...	6,750	Government Buildings, Brunei	
		and Districts (1906—1907) ...	10,339
			38,339
		„ General Purposes ...	106,980
		„ Loan to His Highness the Sultan (made	
		in 1909) ...	41,000
TOTAL ...	439,750	TOTAL ...	439,750

(B).—REDEMPTION ACCOUNT

	\$		\$
1-1-1915, Total, F.M.S.		Capital Repaid ...	36,750
Loan ...	439,750	31-12-1928, Balance due to F.M.S.	403,000
TOTAL ...	439,750	TOTAL ...	439,750

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ACCOUNT

(A).—LOAN ACCOUNT (31ST DECEMBER, 1928)

	\$		\$
By Loans—		To Purchase of Cession Monies ...	13,546*
1922 (October) ...	10,000	„ Purchase of Political Pensions granted in	
1922 (December) ...	10,000	Settlement of Tulin Claims ...	6,454
TOTAL ...	20,000	TOTAL ...	20,000

(B).—REDEMPTION ACCOUNT

	\$		\$
1-1-1923, Total, S.S.		Capital Repaid ...	10,000
Loan ...	20,000	31-12-1928, Balance due to S.S.	10,000
TOTAL ...	20,000	TOTAL ...	20,000

* The total expenditure on the purchase of Cession Monies from other than Loan Funds and not included above amounts to \$80,870.

III.—Production.

AGRICULTURE.

15. The export of rubber which first started in 1914 Rubber. amounted this year to 535 tons of a value of \$581,265 as against 700 tons of a value of \$892,627 during 1927.

16. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Enactment was repealed on the 31st October, 1928, and the export duty was reduced from 2 cents per pound to the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., *ad valorem*.

17. The acreage under rubber is now estimated at 8,500 acres, of which 3,900 acres belong to the five European Estates and the remainder to Asiatic Smallholders. The rubber tree growing in the native holdings can be classed as distinctly poor.

18. The padi (unhusked rice) crop totalled approximately Rice. 521,310 gantangs reaped from an area of approximately 4,000 acres, which is equivalent to 218,946 gantangs of rice. This showed an increase of 221,310 gantangs over last year's crop.

19. The area under wet rice is increasing but slowly. Much propaganda work and an increase in the number of buffaloes for ploughing purposes will be necessary before the hill rice cultivation practised for years by the Kedayans will be given up in favour of wet rice. There are large areas of land apparently suitable for wet rice cultivation which are lying waste though the rice imports for the year amounted to 35,509 pikuls with a value of \$232,127.

20. There are large areas of the sago palm which are Sago Palm. worked by the natives mostly in the Districts of Tutong, Belait and Temburong. The Chinese traders are the middlemen for its export to the Singapore Market.

FORESTS.

21. The Revenue amounted to \$6,804.75. This is mainly derived from firewood and licences to work Jelutong.

22. The exports of Jelutong Rubber totalled 109 tons as compared with 101 tons in 1927. It is obtained mostly by Dyaks working in the Belait District. The average price fetched in Singapore was \$15 per pikul which, due to poor preparation locally, is \$15 less than the price obtained for the Federated Malay States product.

23. A start has been made to encourage the local manufacture of shingles from billian (Borneo Ironwood) wood. It is, however, unlikely that there will be much exploitation of timbers and forest produce until a Forest Department can be established which is at present beyond the financial resources of the State.

INDUSTRIES.

Cutch. 24. The Island Trading Company, Limited, which has been established in Brunei Town since 1900 exported 2,086 tons of bark extract valued at \$179,104 as compared with 2,101 tons valued at \$202,840 for 1927. In the manufacture of this amount 12,551 tons of firewood were consumed. Most of this bark comes now from areas outside the State.

Native Industries. 25. There are two native industries of importance the making of brassware and silverware and they are more or less restricted to certain families or guilds. The best known product of the former is the Brunei Gong of which there are three kinds. The output of the latter has extended of late years to include articles for which there would be a demand amongst Europeans, such as cigarettes boxes, finger bowls, "Mangosteen" powder bowls, etc.

26. Weaving is done by Brunei women. One thousand one hundred and twenty-one pieces of sarongs of a value of \$8,751 were exported as compared with 1,312 pieces valued \$9,626 in 1927. Dollars Fourteen thousand seven hundred and three worth of yarn and thread were imported as compared with \$20,793 in 1927. About one-third of this was used for weaving.

Fisheries. 27. The natives are excellent fishermen and plenty of good fish is obtainable. An extensive export of dried prawns is maintained, the total for this year being 891 pikuls with a value of \$48,153.

MINING.

Oil. 28. Payable oil was first found in 1914 at Labi in the District of Belait. The British Malayan Petroleum Company, Limited, which is allied to the Sarawak Oilfields, Limited, has had a lease of this area since 1924. During the year the original Well continued to supply fuel for all drilling operations but although good shows of gas were obtained in other Wells oil was not struck. Hopes are entertained that success will attend the sinking of a new Rotary Drill Well which began near the end of the year.

29. This Company has been prospecting for five years in the Tutong and Belait Districts and the results are now appearing to show possibilities of oil being obtained in large quantities along the seashore eastwards from the Belait River.

30. The Village of Kuala Belait has begun to expand rapidly owing to the establishment by the Company of a depot with a Wharf and a Wireless Station.

IV.—Trade and Economics.

31. The aggregate value of trade for the year was \$2,443,815 showing a decrease of 15 per cent., as compared with last year. The chief item responsible for the decrease was rubber.

32. The following tables show the quantities and values of the principal exports and imports for the years 1926-1928.—

EXPORTS

Name of Article	Quantity			Value		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
A.—Food, Animals and Drinks—						
Cattle ...	259	145	116	12,573	8,708	9,143
Pigs ...	150	379	292	5,598	18,973	13,193
Poultry ...	408	440	290	276	306	238
Dried Prawns ...	1,020	980	891	52,763	54,179	48,153
Dried Fish ...	67	34	39	1,584	492	465
Sago Flour ...	1,686	1,753	2,998	8,152	8,950	11,906
Copra ...	No return	16	434	No return	159	3,337
B.—Raw Materials—						
Raw Sago ...	66	178	163	152	343	308
Cutch ...	1,892	2,101	2,086	189,200	202,840	179,104
Forest Produce ...	...	...	...	6,740	26,546	4,812
Plantation rubber ...	1,457,772	1,571,522	1,209,680	1,032,055	892,627	581,265
Jelutong rubber ...	17,211	16,825	16,954	295,978	177,029	151,501
Marine Products ...	...	...	...	2,129	1,415	1,336
Hides and Horns ...	307	329	239	4,440	4,308	3,805
Coal ...	...	52	25	...	624	300
Timber ...	...	...	...	...	...	1,045
C.—Manufactured Articles—						
Brassware ...	117	135	109	14,764	16,008	13,539
Silverware ...	...	...	...	6,542	11,182	16,500
Sarongs ...	1,710	1,312	1,121	9,905	9,626	8,751
Kajang ...	4,622	6,228	4,386	3,573	4,882	3,481
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	4,624	4,506	5,889
TOTAL ...	...	...	...	1,651,048	1,443,703	1,058,071

* Bayong—Basket with capacity of 150 kettles

Name of Article	Quantity			Value		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
A.—Food Drinks and Tobacco—						
Rice	...	...	...	...	...	\$
Other grains	...	...	...	...	...	232,127
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	13,730
Salt	...	...	...	...	...	18,934
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	3,832
Tobacco	...	...	...	...	...	57,760
Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	116,462
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	105,780
Coconut oil	...	...	...	...	...	25,368
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	17,475
Spirit	...	...	...	...	...	14,449
Arrack	...	...	...	...	...	16,984
	...	...	...	...	...	412
B.—Raw Materials—						
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	68,117
Timber	...	...	...	...	...	11,078
C.—Manufactured Articles—						
Motor Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	10,667
Dyed cotton goods	...	...	...	...	...	68,342
Yarn and thread	...	...	...	...	...	14,703
Sarongs	...	...	...	...	...	21,233
Machinery	...	...	...	...	...	242,207
Chandu	...	...	...	...	...	17,022
Matches	...	...	...	...	...	6,071
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	284,149
Coins and bullion	...	...	...	...	...	18,842
Total	...	...	...	1,625,535	1,418,515	1,385,744

33. A comparative statement showing the distribution of trade by Districts is given in Appendix C.

Revenue
from
Customs.

34. The total revenue from Customs duties was \$128,939 a decrease of \$37,673.

35. The collections in each District were as follows:—

District	Export Duties			Import Duties		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Brunei ...	32,205	37,827	22,233	51,250	50,303	48,665
Belait ...	18,479	15,663	9,965	21,500	16,585	18,143
Tutong ...	14,517	8,361	7,437	8,741	6,116	3,790
Temburong ...	19,820	19,363	10,375	6,287	7,937	6,430
Muara ...	1,616	1,720	938	3,038	2,737	1,053
TOTAL ...	86,637	82,934	50,858	90,826	83,678	78,081

Duties.

36. The following new or amended duties were imposed during the year:—

Exports—

March ...	Plantation Rubber ...	2 cents per lb.
June ...	Do. ...	1 cent per lb.
July ...	Pigs, per head ...	\$4.
September	Buffaloes ...	Prohibited except with permission in writing from the British Resident.
October	Plantation Rubber ...	2½% ad valorem.

Imports—

June ...	Momi Chests ...	Duty Free.
September	Manufactured Rubber Goods ...	5% ad valorem.
September	Photographic Materials ...	5% ad valorem.

Chandu.

37. The amount of chandu sold was 11,464 tahils as compared with 12,054 tahils for last year. The nett revenue was \$79,447 a decrease of \$3,857 against last year.

38. The sale of chandu is only allowed in Government shops of which there are eight in the State.

V.—Communications.

SHIPPING.

39. Steamers drawing 10 feet can at all times reach Brunei Town. There are bars at the mouths of the Belait and Tutong Rivers which limit navigation to vessels drawing 5 to 6 feet.

40. Communication by steam and motor launches is regularly maintained between Brunei Town and Labuan. The distance is 36 miles.

41. There is a weekly mail service between Labuan and Singapore which is provided by the steamers of the Straits Steamship Company, Limited. This passage takes about 4 days.

ROADS.

42. There is one road, the Brunei-Tutong Road, which was completed last year. Its total length is 30 miles. It was improved and maintained in good repair throughout the year. The metalling programme for this road was curtailed and only the portions from Brunei Town to the new Clifford Bridge and at the two hills between the second and fourth mile-stones were done. An extension was made from Tutong Village to the beach.

43. Five wooden bridges were erected near the mouths of the main streams situate between the Tutong and Belait Rivers. They have made it possible to travel by motor car from Kuala Belait to the River Telamba along the sandy beach at low tide.

44. A metalled road was built in front of the new shop-houses in Brunei Town.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

(A).—POST OFFICE.

45. The Revenue amounted to \$8,869 as compared with Financial. \$9,733 for last year. Dealers and collectors purchased stamps to the value of about \$1,400. The expenditure was \$4,030 as against \$3,651 for 1927.

46. The following is a comparative statement of the Postal business transacted during the last three years:—

	1926	1927	1928
Letters, papers and parcels received ..	34,747	42,470	45,723
Do. do. despatched	18,936	21,842	26,689
TOTAL ...	53,683	64,312	72,412

47. Details of the business transacted are as follows:—

LETTERS				Postcards	Printed Matters	Parcels
Registered	Paid	Service	Taxed			
4,869	18,872	720	868	128	939	293
			INWARD			
1,564	26,683	1,750	638	266	12,879	1,943

Money Orders.

48. One hundred and fifty-three Money Orders were issued to the value of \$5,425.59 and 906 Cash-on-Delivery parcels were received to the value of \$12,852.59 Forty-five Money-Orders were received and cashed during the year to the value of \$1,571.60.

Telephone.

49. The only public telephone service is in Brunei Town and it is practically confined to the Government Offices.

General.

50. There is a weekly mail service maintained between Brunei and Singapore *via* Labuan. The incoming mail is usually brought by the Government Motor Launch "MUARA".

51. Mr. GRAHAM of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Postal Department prepared a report on the local Postal Organisation and as a result several improvements leading to greater efficiency were introduced.

(B).—RADIO-TELEGRAPHS.

Messages.

52. The number of messages handled by the Department during the year totalled 4,594 as compared with 4,988 in 1927 and 4,468 in 1926.

This figure is made up as follows:—

(a) Internal Service	...	...	2,340
(b) Cable Service	...	...	824
(c) Sarawak Service	...	...	1,430

53. Tables are appended showing the comparison between traffic figures of 1926, 1927 and 1928.

INTERNAL TRAFFIC.

	Handed in at and transmitted from :				Total number of messages dealt with	Average number of messages per mensem		
	Brunei	Labuan	Belait (Labi)	Tem-burong		1928	1927	1926
Government	577	462	72	161	1,272	106.0	111.0	94.9
Public Prepaid	445	375	172	76	1,068	89.0	59.6	65.7
TOTAL ...	1,022	837	244	237	2,340	195.0	170.6	160.6

EXTERNAL TRAFFIC

(EASTERN EXTENSION TELEGRAPHS COMPANY, LTD., LABUAN)

	Messages transmitted from :				Messages received from :				Total number of messages dealt with			Average number of messages per mensem	
	Labuan			Belait (Labi)	Labuan			Belait (Labi)	Tem-burong		1928	1927	1926
	Brunei	Labuan	Belait (Labi)	Tem-burong	Brunei	Labuan	Belait (Labi)	Tem-burong					
Government ...	44	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	104	...	8.7	7.7	6.3
Public Prepaid ...	223	...	23	30	429	...	7	8	720	...	60.0	87.6	80.8
TOTAL ...	267	...	23	30	489	...	7	8	824	...	68.7	95.3	87.1

(BRUNEI SARAWAK SERVICE)

	Messages transmitted from :				Messages received from :				Total number of messages dealt with			Average number of messages per mensem	
	Labuan			Belait (Labi)	Labuan			Belait (Labi)	Tem-burong		1928	1927	1926
	Brunei	Labuan	Belait (Labi)	Tem-burong	Brunei	Labuan	Belait (Labi)	Tem-burong					
Government ...	41	4	2	...	33	27	...	...	107	...	9.8	13.0	14.3
Public Prepaid ...	28	257	500	3	98	154	283	...	1,323	...	110.2	136.0	128.3
TOTAL ...	69	261	502	3	131	181	283	...	1,430	...	120.0	149.0	142.6

Financial.

54. The revenue of the Department amounted to \$3,403.88 as compared with \$4,554.34 in 1927. The decrease of revenue was due to the decrease in traffic on both Cable and Sarawak Services.

55. The number of words in messages sent on Government Service amounted to 16,786 which at ten cents per word would have a value of \$1,678.60.

56. The total expenditure, including Personal Emoluments, amounted to \$6,539 as compared with \$13,451.31 in 1927. The decrease in expenditure was due to the saving made in the salary of the European Wireless Engineer which was estimated for at \$550 per mensem.

Efficiency.

57. The four Stations operated *viz.*, Brunei, Labuan, Belait, which should be correctly named Labi, and Temburong maintained an uninterrupted service throughout the year.

58. The system of using a Hand-Generator for the supply of high tension current for transmission was inaugurated in the Temburong Station after its removal to the new site at Bukit Bangar at the end of last year and it gave very satisfactory service.

59. A two-valve Receiver, similar to those installed at Brunei, Labuan and Temburong was also installed at the Belait Station early in the year.

General.

60. The Wireless Engineer, Mr. L. R. WATTS, was recalled to Singapore in April and the Chief Operator, PENGIRAN MOHAMED BIN PENGIRAN PIUT, acted as Officer in charge of the Department for the remainder of the year. One Assistant and one Apprentice Operator, one Mechanic and one Messenger were stationed at Brunei. The Labuan, Belait and Temburong stations were each manned by one Operator and one Messenger.

61. In November the rate of ordinary telegrams to and from Sarawak was reduced from 40 cents to 20 cents per word. Arrangements were also made to reduce the rate on Government telegrams from 20 cents to 10 cents per word with effect from 1st January, 1929.

62. Christmas and New Year greeting telegrams were accepted for transmission at reduced rates.

63. The British Malayan Petroleum Company Limited, erected at Kuala Belait a small station for communication with Miri and Labi which was opened for all traffic in June. This station was maintained and operated by the Company alone.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons.

(A).—JUSTICE AND CRIME.

64. The Courts constituted in the State for the Courts.
administration of Civil and Criminal justice are the Court of the Resident, the Courts of the First and Second Class Magistrates and the Courts of the Native Magistrates and Kathis. The Court of the Resident exercises original and appellate jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. The Supreme Court of the Colony of the Straits Settlements has original jurisdiction in the case of offences punishable with death and appeals lie to it from the Court of the Resident in certain civil and criminal matters. In 1928 five Criminal Cases and four Civil cases were tried in the Court of the Resident and the following table shows the number of cases instituted and disposed of in the Courts of the First and Second Class Magistrates in the various Districts:—

District	First Class Magistrate's Court		Second Class Magistrate's Court		Total
	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	
Brunei	68	48	71	272	459
Tutong	2	10	11	78	101
Temburong	13	1	43	30	87
Belait	13	26	54	257	350
Muara	2	1	8	4	15
TOTAL	98	86	187	641	1,012

65. Out of 290 Criminal cases 57 resulted in acquittals. The total amount involved in Civil and Administration Suits amounted to \$49,502 and \$22,456 respectively.

66. There were no appeals during the year.

67. The only serious crime was four cases of murder, Crime.
in all of which arrests were made. There was insufficient evidence to support a conviction in two of the cases but one accused, a Dyak, was banished. One case tried in the Court of the Resident resulted in a conviction and the accused a Chinese was sentenced to death and duly hanged. In the remaining case the murderer was proved to be insane and he died subsequently in Labuan Hospital.

68. The following is a comparative statement of offences reported to the Police for the last three years:—

<i>Offences</i>			<i>Property Lost</i>		<i>Property Recovered</i>	
			\$	c.	\$	c.
1926	...	305	1,094	27	715	47
1927	...	353	1,510	10	174	30
1928	...	440	2,115	99	725	26

(B).—POLICE.

69. The strength of the Force on 31st December, 1928, was as follows:—

<i>Sgt.</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>Serjants</i>	<i>Corporals</i>	<i>Lance-Corporals</i>	<i>Constables</i>
1	4	3	2	49	

which is one Lance-Corporal and one Constable below the approved establishment.

70. Chief Inspector G. A. McAFEE was in charge of the Force until 4th November when he was succeeded by Inspector T. E. MURPHY of the Straits Settlements Police Force.

71. All ranks have worked well during the year. All arms and accoutrements were maintained in good order and the clothing was satisfactory.

72. The results of the musketry course were:—

<i>Marksmen</i>	<i>1st. Class</i>	<i>2nd. Class</i>	<i>3rd Class</i>
1	7	9	12

73. Discipline was fair on the whole. Thirty-six men were defaulted and two were dismissed for breaches of the Police Force Enactment. The majority of the other offences were more or less trivial.

74. The health of the force was fairly good. The prevalent disease was Malaria.

Buildings.

75. A new Police Station (including Gaol) and a new Magazine at Brunei were completed early in the year. There were in all six Police Stations in the State.

General.

76. Nine hundred and sixty firearms were registered showing an increase of 4 over 1927, and 515 Weights and Measures were tested which is a decrease of 29 as compared with in 1927.

77. Seven hundred and eighty-seven aliens were registered during the year as compared with 1,081 for 1927.

78. Thirty-one motor vehicles were registered and 48 drivers were licensed during the year which represents a small increase over 1927.

79. One person was taken by a crocodile and rewards were paid for 7 crocodiles caught.

80. The Fire Brigade was not called out during the year.

PRISONS.

81. A new Gaol which is incorporated with the Police Station in Brunei Town was completed in the early part of the year.

82. At the beginning of the year the number of prisoners was 22 in Brunei Prison and one in Singapore Prison. The total admissions during the year were 92, all of whom were males including one juvenile and their nationality was as follows:—

<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Malays</i>	<i>Indians</i>	<i>Dusuns</i>	<i>Kedayans</i>	<i>Javanese</i>
40	31	11	6	3	1

83. There were 26 prisoners in the Brunei Prison on 31st December, 1928. The daily average of prisoners was 18.11. No floggings were administered. One prisoner was hanged by the hangman from Singapore.

84. The general health of the prisoners was good and conduct satisfactory. The food was satisfactory throughout the year.

85. In regard to labour, prisoners were employed on public works such as digging drains, clearing State Land and doing reclamation. They made rattan articles totalling in value \$683.60 for the year of which Government took baskets etc., to the value of \$483.50 and private persons to the value of \$125.70. The cost of the rattan for 1928 was \$340.78.

86. The Chief Police Officer acted as Superintendent of Prisons with a Sergeant in charge of the Brunei Gaol.

VII.—Public Works. *

87. The total expenditure under this head amounted to \$129,450 of which \$11,977 was in respect of Personal Emoluments. Expenditure.

88. Brunei Town.—The erection of a new Police Station and Goal was completed in April. Three new Quarters were erected, two for Clerks and one for a Dresser. Buildings.

Roads are dealt with under Part V

The building of a hospital was commenced but was unfinished at the end of the year.

A Contract was signed in December for the erection of Quarters for a Medical Officer which is to be completed by May next year.

89. *Outstations.*—At Tutong the Quarters for Subordinates were completed and a bungalow purchased from the British Malayan Petroleum Company, Limited, was put into use as a Rest House. All existing buildings of importance were kept in good repair.

Water
Supply.

90. The water supply pipe from the Brunei Reservoir was damaged during the heavy flood in February but was repaired satisfactorily. The water in the reservoir rose two feet over the dam.

General.

91. A reinforced concrete bridge over the Kedayan River was completed in May. It was named CLIFFORD Bridge.

92. The flood which occurred in February washed away the Kianggeh Bridge and the centre portion of the old Kedayan Bridge. A box trestle bridge was built for temporary use across the Kianggeh River and the construction of a 90 foot reinforced concrete bridge to replace it was started at the end of the year.

93. A reclamation and a sea wall of 550 feet long was made on the Western side of Brunei Town.

94. An additional set of accumulators was installed at the Brunei Wireless Station and this rendered possible the supply of electric light to the Police Station and Gaol, the Quarters of the Chief Police Officer and the Officer in Charge of the Public Works.

95. An Ice Plant was installed in the Government Workshop and has worked most satisfactorily. A profit of nearly \$400 was made from the sale of ice.

VIII.—Public Health.

Vital
Statistics.

96. The population of the State at the end of 1928 was estimated at 35,000. The number of Europeans including children is only fifty-five. About 14,000 persons entered the State from other countries and 17,500 left.

97. Figures of births and deaths are obtained under a Births and Deaths Enactment which provides for compulsory notification and they can be considered as approximately correct. The cause of death is almost in all cases a matter of conjecture. Nine hundred and fifty-two deaths were

registered during the year, giving a death-rate of 26.68 per mille as against one thousand two hundred and seventy and a death-rate of 35.05 in 1927. One thousand and seventy-four births were registered, giving a birth-rate of 30.10 as against one thousand two hundred and ninety-two in 1927, a birth-rate of 33.05 in 1927. The infantile mortality was 360.3 per mille compared with 417.8 in 1927.

98. The Medical Officer, Labuan, acted as Medical General Officer throughout the year and paid monthly visits. Early next year the services of a Resident Medical Officer, seconded from the Straits Settlements, will be obtained.*

99. The number of patients treated in the Brunei Dispensary and in the Outstations was 2,702. There were 757 vaccinations performed as against 1,245 in 1927.

100. Out of 95 school boys examined in the Brunei Vernacular School only 8 had spleen enlargement and the health and the physique of the remainder was good.

101. The erection of a Government Hospital for Third Class patients in Brunei Town was commenced in November and will be completed in March next year. It is designed to contain 30 beds.

102. Meteorological returns are given in Appendices *D* and *E*. The highest rainfall recorded on any one day was 6.75 inches at Temburong (Biang) Estate. Meteorology.

IX.—Education.

103. Education in the Malay Vernacular Schools is free but not compulsory. At the end of the year there were 198 boys between the ages of 6 and 16 years on the register of the four State Schools:— Malay Schools.

Brunei	...	...	...	122
Tutong	...	...	...	40
Temburong	...	...	...	21
Kilanas	...	...	...	15

The average daily attendance varied between 75 per cent, at Brunei, 88 per cent, at Kilanas, 40 per cent, at Tutong and 78 per cent, at Temburong. It is to be regretted that the population, almost entirely agricultural, is too scattered, outside Brunei Town, to make full use of the present educational facilities. In Brunei Town only 12 per cent of the boys of school age attend school which is far from satisfactory. General apathy of parents is the main reason for this.

* Medical Officer appointed in February, 1929

104. The curriculum of these schools is based on that of the Vernacular Schools in Malaya and all teaching is in the Malay language. Nothing is taught which will tend to drive Malays from their agricultural pursuits.

105. There are no schools for girls.

Chinese
School.

106. In Brunei Town there is a private Chinese School in receipt of a Government grant. The number of pupils on the register at the end of the year was 30.

English
Education.

107. A start was made in teaching elementary English at afternoon classes which were attended by members of the Government Subordinate Staff and the Police. It is hoped that this venture will be a success.

X.—Lands and Surveys.

Land
System.

108. All land, not held under title or by concession, is called State Land which the Resident may dispose of on behalf of the Ruler in accordance with "The Land Code, 1909".

109. Alienated land is held either in perpetuity or for a number of years by entry in the Land Office Register and the document of title issued to the landholder is an Extract from this Register endorsed with a plan. The title covers surface right only and is subject to certain reservations in favour of Government such as the right to all minerals and to resume for public purposes on payment of compensation.

Mining.

110. Licences to prospect for minerals such as coal and oil may be issued by the Resident and mining leases may likewise be issued by him subject to the sanction of the High Commissioner when the area exceeds five square miles.

111. All transactions, *e.g.*, transfers of land, mortgages are not effective till they have been registered in the Land Office.

Surveys.

112. All survey of alienated land is done by prismatic compass and boundary marks of stone are planted. The accuracy of this survey is open to question but this is unavoidable until the finances of the State will run to the establishment of a Survey Department.

Area under
title and
concession.

113. The area in private occupation at the end of the year was roughly 74,000 acres. There were about 4,100 small holdings.

Land
Revenue.

114. The total rent-roll amounted to \$19,540 and the arrears were only \$111.75 at the end of the year.

115. During the year 838 acres of State Land were alienated of which 700 acres were for rubber cultivation. Two hundred and seven applications were registered and of these 196 were approved alienation. Alienations.

116. The number of titles registered was 436 while 211 General transfer and miscellaneous transactions were dealt with.

XI.—Labour.

117. Conditions of labour are governed by the Labour Code of 1913, with its subsequent amendments and by the various Indian Immigration Enactments.

118. The Controller of Labour, Malaya, is Controller of Labour for the State and the British Resident exercises the powers of a Deputy Controller.

119. The Deputy Controller of Labour, Malaya, paid a visit to the State in May and inspected all Estates employing Indian labourers. The Agent to the Government of India did so shortly afterwards. They both submitted reports for the consideration of Government.

120. An amendment to the Indian Immigration Enactment was passed in November to provide standard (minimum) rates of wages for South Indian labourers and the rates subsequently prescribed at the close of the year were 56 cents a day for men and 45 cents for women.

121. The following table shows the approximate number of coolies employed by the chief employers of labour at the close of the year:—

Race	Island Trading Company, Ltd.	British Malayan Petroleum Company, Ltd (Lab and Kuala Belait)	Five European Rubber Estates	Total
Bruneis and Kedayans ...	500	155	443	1,098
Chinese ...	...	166	102	268
Javanese ...	...	...	87	87
Dyaks ...	...	92	...	92
Indians ...	...	197	200	397
Others ...	...	...	35	35
TOTAL ...	500	610	867	1,977

122. The Managers of three Europeans Rubber Estates had to reduce the number of their labourers owing to the low price of rubber and 227 Indians were given notice and

were subsequently repatriated. These included most of the Indian recruited in past years from Malaya who had proved to be unsatisfactory workers.

Health.

123. Health conditions cannot be considered as generally satisfactory but it is hoped that an improvement will be effected by the Resident Medical Officer next year.

Immigration.

124. The immigration of labourers from Southern India to Malaya and Brunei is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee (of which the Controller of Labour is ex-officio Chairman appointed by the High Commissioner). All travelling expenses of such labourers to their places of employment are paid from the Indian Immigration Fund. The income of this fund is derived from a quarterly assessment levied on all employers of South Indian labourers based on the number of days' work done by such labourers during the quarter.

Repatriation.

125. During the year 169 adults and 17 minors were repatriated at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund.

XII.—Miscellaneous.

Legislation.

126. All Enactments are passed by His Highness the Sultan in Council which consists of 8 Members and its meetings are attended by His Highness who takes as yet no active part in the proceedings owing to his minority. There were nine meetings during the year.

127. Only one Enactment, the Indian Immigration Enactment No. 1 of 1924, Amendment Enactment, was passed. It brought the law relating to Indian labourers more into line with the Labour Codes of the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States. Rules were made thereunder at the close of the year. The Export of Rubber (Restriction) Enactment of 1922 was repealed in November. Rules were also made under the Arms and Explosives Enactment, 1927, in order to provide greater stringency of control.

128. A dozen temporary Chinese shops have been built at Kuala Belait. A start was made at the close of the year to move the present District Headquarters from Kuala Balai to Kuala Belait.

129. A row of ten new shophouses were in the course of erection at Tutong.

130. New Mosques were erected in Brunei Town and in Tutong.

R. J. F. CURTIS,

British Resident, Brunei.

BRUNEI, 31st March, 1929.

APPENDIX A.

Abstract of Revenue	1926	1927	1928
	\$	\$	\$
CLASS I			
DUTIES, TAXES AND LICENSES—			
Customs	177,472	166,612	128,939
Government Monopolies	73,467	83,304	79,447
Licenses	16,337	18,654	18,117
Poll-Tax	3,024	2,688	1,740
Municipal	13,483	11,893	11,667
CLASS II			
FEES OF COURTS AND OFFICE, ETC.—			
Courts	3,969	3,958	4,167
Surveys	4,554	9,251	3,407
General	8,514	10,152	10,198
CLASS III			
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—			
Posts and Telegraphs	10,751	9,733	8,869
CLASS IV			
REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT PROPERTY—			
Land Revenue	32,744	59,457	59,126
Cession Monies	15,175	15,175	15,200
Interest	7,854	11,258	13,885
TOTAL REVENUE ...	367,344	402,135	354,762
Repayment of Loans ...	29,490	38,735	39,113
TOTAL RECEIPTS ...	396,834	440,870	393,875

APPENDIX B.

Abstract of Expenditure	1926	1927	1928
	\$	\$	\$
His Highness the Sultan ...	13,200	13,200	13,200
Native Chiefs ...	12,000	12,000	14,400
British Resident ..	16,022	18,117	17,468
Treasury, Customs and Monopolies	12,969	13,156	13,878
Land and Surveys ...	5,452	7,822	8,864
District Offices ...	8,074	9,877	10,934
Education ...	3,268	3,214	3,425
Marine ...	9,102	12,792	13,155
Police ...	29,364	30,703	31,111
Medical ...	5,112	5,560	5,754
Political Pensions ...	2,732	2,405	2,174
Headmen ...	754	643	570
Interest ...	17,402	17,142	16,885
Municipal ...	2,508	10,213	8,166
Miscellaneous Services, Annually Recurrent ...	30,799	13,828	21,612
Miscellaneous Services, Special Expenditure ...	18,353	23,223	16,362
Pensions ...	2,868	2,872	2,701
Posts and Telegraphs ...	17,106	17,086	13,895
Public Works, Annually Recurrent ...	49,757	39,928	41,450
Public Works, Special Services ...	41,052	167,701	88,001
TOTAL EXPENDITURE ...	297,894	421,481	344,005
Repayment of Public Debt. ...	5,500	5,500	6,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	303,394	426,981	350,005

APPENDIX C.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS FOR THE YEARS 1926-1928

Exports

District	Plantation rubber			Jelutong rubber			Raw Sago and Sago Flour			Copra		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Brunei	lbs. 807,533	lbs. 875,454	lbs. 1,028,960	Pikuls 74	Pikuls 80	Pikuls 86	Pikuls 12	Pikuls 10	Pikuls 24	Pikuls ...	Pikuls ...	Pikuls 171
Belait	9,033	17,452	2,979	10,804	11,459	11,948	1,164	1,231	1,776	...	...	25
Tutong	85,344	91,927	98,185	4,036	3,414	3,740	131	144	247	...	...	5
Temburong	530,027	560,446	57,092	2,297	1,871	1,180	447	532	1,181	...	...	578
Muara	25,835	26,243	22,463	...	...	...	...	30	12	...	159	2,558
TOTAL	1,457,772	1,571,522	1,209,679	17,211	16,824	16,954	1,754	1,947	3,240	...	159	3,337

District	Forest Produce			Cattle			Pigs			Hides and Horns		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
Brunei	\$ 1,475	\$ 3,083	\$ 1,425	Head 12	Head 27	Head 4	Head 125	Head 335	Head 277	Pikuls 222	Pikuls 254	Pikuls 142
Belait	1,534	22,264	1,637	5	2	3	...	...	...	13	14	30
Tutong	2,182	954	1,540	205	74	78	...	...	...	56	47	58
Temburong	1,362	139	61	1	1	1	...	...	3	7	10	7
Muara	171	62	149	36	41	30	25	44	12	8	4	2
TOTAL	6,725	26,502	4,812	259	145	116	150	379	292	306	329	239

APPENDIX C.—*Ctd.*
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS FOR THE YEARS
1926-1928—*Ctd.*
Exports—*Ctd.*

District	Kajang				Marine Produce				Sarongs				Brassware			
	1926	1927	1928	Bundles	1926	1927	1928	\$	1926	1927	1928	\$	1926	1927	1928	Pikuls
Brunei	...	...	...	4,622	...	...	...	2,129	...	...	...	1,099	...	...	...	...
Belait	...	...	...	6,228	...	...	...	1,101	...	...	...	9,905	...	...	...	...
Tutong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Temburong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	4,622	6,228	4,386	...	2,129	1,415	1,801	...	9,905	9,626	8,751	...	116	135	...	109

District	Silverware				Dried Prawns				Cutch				Other manufactured articles			
	1926	1927	1928	\$	1926	1927	1928	Pikuls	1926	1927	1928	Tons	1926	1927	1928	\$
Brunei	...	...	...	6,542	...	...	...	16,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belait	...	...	...	11,182	...	...	...	846	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tutong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Temburong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Muara	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	6,542	11,182	16,500	...	1,019	980	891	...	1,892	2,101	2,086	...	4,536	4,506	...	5,889

APPENDIX C.—*Ctd.*
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS FOR THE YEARS 1926-1928
Imports

District	Rice			Tobacco			Piece Goods and Sarongs				Sugar		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928		1926	1927	1928
	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	\$	\$	\$	\$	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls
Brunei	22,945	26,936	26,066	56,206	53,427	59,274	93,937	63,358	58,377	58,377	4,041	4,966	5,001
Belait	4,725	5,668	3,842	18,664	13,975	14,604	26,643	27,428	14,281	14,281	667	648	676
Tutong	2,002	1,086	595	9,756	8,433	3,267	28,344	9,596	9,939	9,939	769	926	737
Temburong	2,639	4,568	3,318	7,554	8,520	6,887	8,183	7,529	5,698	5,698	484	590	595
Muara	1,958	1,472	1,687	4,236	3,173	985	4,380	3,575	1,280	1,280	380	346	261
TOTAL	32,269	39,730	35,508	96,416	87,528	85,017	161,487	111,486	89,575	89,575	6,341	7,476	7,270

District	Petroleum			Provisions			Machinery				Other grains		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928		1926	1927	1928
	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls
Brunei	41,654	44,103	52,904	55,374	56,493	47,078	26,283	10,694	6,284	6,284	1,603	2,038	3,937
Belait	17,455	16,797	29,241	42,505	27,180	33,429	238,509	190,312	245,737	245,737	84	394	229
Tutong	5,120	5,852	4,424	8,326	10,310	7,814	1,239	334	700	700	23	28	20
Temburong	4,350	4,608	3,870	15,077	16,998	15,351	...	2,500	153	153	27	32	72
Muara	3,000	1,172	496	2,204	2,837	2,108	39	462	...	...	198	53	64
TOTAL	71,579	72,532	90,935	123,488	113,818	105,780	266,070	204,502	252,874	252,874	2,025	2,545	4,322

APPENDIX C.—Ctd.
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE BY DISTRICTS IN THE YEARS
1926-1928—Ctd.
Imports—Ctd.

District	Salt			Flour			Coconut oil			Liquor		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
	Pikuls	Pikuls	Pikuls	Sacks	Sacks	Sacks	Tins	Tins	Tins	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
Brunei	1,363	1,145	1,485	4,264	6,575	5,590	1,541	2,237	1,794	1,321	1,751	1,810
Belait	174	161	218	603	626	649	659	400	490	1,037	777	1,079
Tutong	206	304	213	241	279	205	176	169	154	69	18	22
Temburong	89	106	128	584	863	571	205	402	274	147	464	315
Muara	301	331	140	480	462	292	20	98	32	22	68	6
TOTAL	2,133	2,047	2,184	6,172	8,805	7,307	2,601	3,306	2,744	2,596	3,078	3,232

District	Timber			Yarn and Thread			Other manufactured articles			Chandu		
	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928	1926	1927	1928
	\$	*	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	Tahils	Tahils	Tahils
Brunei	7,007	3,712	8,465	23,554	18,048	13,522	117,661	138,232	143,778	12,520	11,520	7,985
Belait	...	...	83	529	922	261	56,291	41,040	116,846	...	...	...
Tutong	...	...	1,948	1,349	614	339	13,632	8,833	5,626	...	...	...
Temburong	1,621	1,618	479	...	1,000	414	18,143	26,044	15,834	...	...	...
Muara	...	58	103	55	209	167	4,078	4,857	2,065	...	...	...
TOTAL	8,628	5,388	11,078	25,487	20,793	14,703	209,311	219,006	284,149	12,520	11,520	7,985

APPENDIX D.

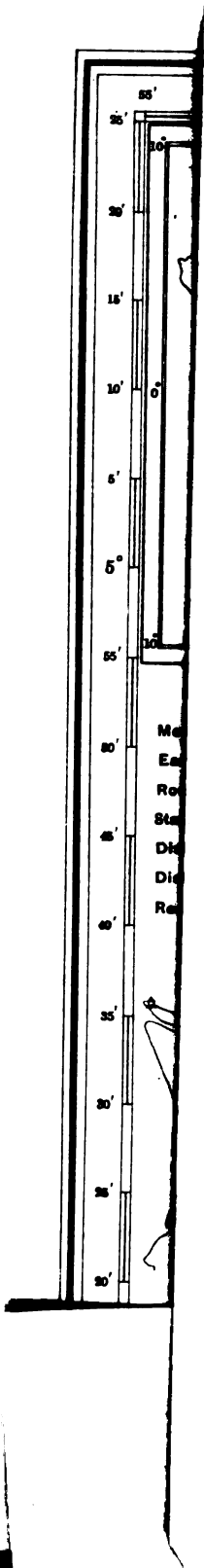
ABSTRACT OF RAINFALL OBSERVATIONS AT THE SEVEN STATIONS OF THE STATE DURING THE YEAR 1928

Month	BRUNEI DISTRICT				TEMBURONG DISTRICT		
	Brunei Govt. Offices	Subok	Gadong	Kumbang Pasang	Labu	Biang	Batu Apoi
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
January	13'14	17'47	32'41	14'87	24'60	26'39	17'48
February	12'23	8'14	11'40	15'61	9'71	9'44	8'57
March	5'00	3'62	5'97	3'21	13'37	12'61	13'78
April	12'81	10'45	8'74	10'97	9'92	21'34	11'98
May	6'89	7'01	10'41	7'71	12'66	12'40	6'07
June	6'21	5'79	4'62	3'66	7'45	5'17	3'73
July	8'86	8'51	9'18	7'76	15'13	14'50	10'38
August	6'85	7'28	8'10	7'48	16'63	15'28	13'50
September	8'57	6'27	6'98	5'88	4'45	10'70	6'68
October	18'50	21'09	18'33	17'60	13'55	12'75	8'97
November	17'51	15'51	11'08	13'75	24'16	15'36	12'96
December	14'96	15'75	15'10	14'76	26'12	25'60	16'54
TOTAL	131'53	126'89	142'32	123'26	177'75	181'54	130'84

APPENDIX E.

ABSTRACT OF THERMOMETRICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES, BRUNEI TOWN
DURING THE YEAR 1928

Month	THERMOMETER MEAN (In Shade)			Highest Recorded Shade Temperature	Lowest Recorded Shade Temperature
	Maximum	Minimum	Range		
January	84.48	76.58	7.90	87	75
February	84.24	77.06	7.18	87	74
March	85.66	76.12	8.94	88	74
April	86.00	76.33	9.67	88	74
May	86.35	76.45	9.90	89	74
June	87.00	76.76	10.24	89	74
July	86.48	76.41	10.07	90	74
August	86.97	76.16	10.81	89	74
September	86.36	76.26	10.10	89	74
October	84.64	76.29	8.35	89	73
November	85.86	76.73	9.13	89	74
December	85.35	76.83	8.52	88	74
Mean Temperature	85.73	76.49	81.11		



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CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
SITUATION AND AREA	2
HISTORY	3
CLIMATE	3
POPULATION	4
GOVERNMENT FINANCE	4
PUBLIC DEBT	4
SAVINGS BANK	5
TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES	5
LEGISLATION	6
EDUCATION	6
COMMUNICATIONS	8
MAP	

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of South latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156 $\frac{1}{4}$. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles: The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands, and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Viscomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV. from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's Ship ORPHEUS.

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, was estimated at 27,238, an increase of 2,715 since the census of 1921.

There were 200 marriages, or 8 less than in 1927.

The births in 1928 numbered 791, which corresponds to a rate of 29·04 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 439, or 16·12 per 1,000.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs. 751,633, an increase as compared with 1927 of Rs. 14,748. Customs revenue produced Rs. 325,707 compared with Rs. 339,324 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs. 731,672.

The total value of the trade of the Colony showed a slight increase as compared with the previous year.

The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last four years :—

<i>Year.</i>				<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>
				<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1925	...	...	...	770,761	651,914
1926	...	...	...	662,541	713,692
1927	...	...	...	736,886	663,267
1928	...	...	...	751,633	731,672

The assets of the Colony on 31st December, 1928, exceeded the liabilities by Rs. 583,630.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	<i>Rs.</i>
On account of General Revenue ...	329,291·73
On account of Savings Bank ...	81,079·16

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £1,894 5s. 2d.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1928, was Rs. 198,216 an increase of Rs. 5,860 compared with 1927.

Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs. 4,179,049 as compared with Rs. 3,985,171 in 1927.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs. 1,744,719 compared with Rs. 1,804,710 in 1927. The imports from the United Kingdom show a decrease of Rs. 61,421; the imports from India show a decrease of Rs. 14,613; and the imports from French possessions show a decrease of Rs. 41,350 as compared with 1927.

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at Rs. 2,434,330 compared with Rs. 2,159,918 in 1927. The Exports to the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs. 172,276.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

					Rs.
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	304,041
British Possessions	...	...	...	...	1,442,047
France	...	...	...	...	137,681

AGRICULTURE.

The Coconut Industry:—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 4,982 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons as compared with 4,628 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons in 1927. About 27,500 coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with 12,500 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs. 40 to Rs. 48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs. 350 per ton.

Essential Oils:—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, lemon grass, and clove oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 62,323 litres.

The export in 1927 amounted to 60,366 litres.

Vanilla:—The total export of vanilla during the year amounted to 1,311 kilos as compared with 3,245 kilos in 1927.

Rubber:—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 19,172 lb. as compared with 19,388 lb. in 1927.

FISHERIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is still engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought from the outlying islands to Mahé by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year:—

				Kilos.		Declared value.
						Rs.
Tortoise shell	...	...	...	1,041½	...	28,536
Green turtle shell	...	...	...	698	...	418
Turtle strips	...	...	...	552	...	331
Shark fins	...	...	...	1,027	...	1,214
Calipee	...	...	...	4,165	...	4,707
Salt fish	...	...	...	600	...	150
Trepangs	...	...	...	2,320	...	2,669

The export of guano during the year amounted to 15,400 tons, the declared value being Rs. 461,760.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were:—

No. 7.—“An Ordinance to amend the Paper Currency of Seychelles.”

No. 8.—“An Ordinance to allow licensed Warehouses to issue Dock Warrants on goods and produce stored therein.”

No. 9.—“An Ordinance to impose a Tax on lands planted in Sugar Cane, and to regulate the sale of the liquor called ‘Bacca.’”

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are twenty-six Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Twenty-one of these schools are

Roman Catholic, attended by 1,930 children with an average attendance of 1,541·6; the remaining five schools are Church of England, attended by 371 pupils with an average attendance of 254.

The average attendance has increased from 73·8 per cent. to 80 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools, and in the Church of England schools from 67·5 per cent. to 68·5 per cent.

Apart from the twenty-six schools examined, there are two schools which do not satisfy the conditions for a grant, viz.: one Roman Catholic at Port Glaud, with fifty pupils (twenty boys and thirty girls), the average attendance being only seventeen, and one Church of England at Bel Ombre, with twenty-one pupils (eleven boys and ten girls), the average attendance being sixteen.

A new Church of England school has been constructed at Anse Kerlan, Praslin, and will no doubt be a great boon to the people of that locality.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise a supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are three secondary schools, St. Louis College, St. Joseph's Convent, and St. Paul's School, with 203, 162, and 40 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At all these schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local examinations. Forty-one candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local examinations in 1928, of whom twenty-four obtained a Preliminary, nine a Junior, and two a School Certificate. Thirty-six candidates (girls) were also offered for the Higher Education of Girls examination; of these twenty-nine passed.

As regards secondary education, Ordinance No. 6 of 1927 entitled "The Seychelles Scholarship Ordinance, 1927," was passed in the Legislative Council on the 19th July, 1927.

Under this Ordinance, a scholarship of the annual value, free of income tax, either of Rs. 1,200 tenable for five years, or of Rs. 1,500 tenable for four years, is awarded every second year to one scholar of Seychelles, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London University Matriculation Examination to the candidate who shall have passed in the First Division and who is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

The first examination under the new Ordinance was held in June, 1928.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions, and local scholarships. The total amount spent on education was Rs. 32,526·90 cts., of which Rs. 21,964 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads:—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 20 miles, however, are now suitable for motor traffic. Schemes for regrading roads are under consideration which will largely increase this mileage.

Mail and Postal Service:—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs. 26,195 and the expenditure to Rs. 21,100. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 42 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

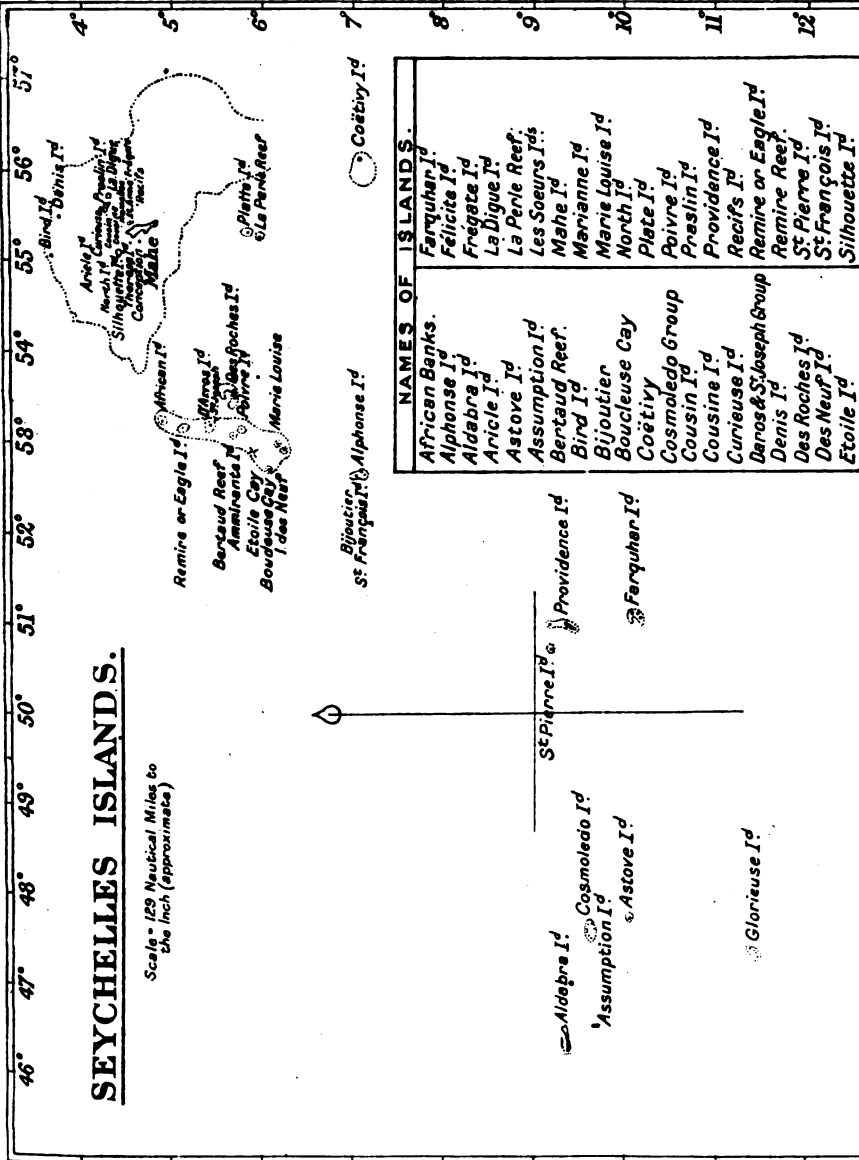
Telegraph and Telephone:—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden, and Colombo.

Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony; but a wireless telephone service was inaugurated in June, 1926, between Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue. The service between Mahé and La Digue is still suspended. Tests have been carried out and a report submitted regarding further requirements necessary to put the service into operation on a more reliable basis.

Tests from the Victoria Station have also been carried out with ships at sea with satisfactory results. Communication up to 500 miles has been established with ships, continuous wave and morse code being used for this purpose.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGES.
HISTORY	2
GEOGRAPHY	3
CLIMATE	4
CURRENCY	4
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	5
LANGUAGE	5
I. GENERAL	5
II. FINANCE	7
III. PRODUCTION	10
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	15
V. COMMUNICATIONS	18
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS... ..	22
VII. PUBLIC HEALTH	25
VIII. EDUCATION... ..	25
IX. LANDS AND SURVEY	25
X. LABOUR	26
MAP... ..	27

History.

Prior to 1884 the administration of the Somali Coast had been in the hands of the Egyptian Government. Upon its collapse in 1884, a Protectorate was proclaimed by Great Britain over what is now recognised as British Somaliland, and the boundaries were settled by agreements with France, Italy, and Abyssinia. Until 1898 the Protectorate was administered by the Resident at Aden as a Dependency of the Government of India. In that year it was transferred to the charge of the Foreign Office, and on 1st April, 1905, to the Colonial Office.

From 1901 to 1920 the history of the Protectorate is largely a history of campaigns against Mohammed-bin-Abdulla Hassan, the "Mad Mullah." In 1901, 1902, and 1903, expeditions were sent against the Mullah, and in January, 1904, a crushing defeat was inflicted on him at Jidballeh. He then retired into Italian territory and claimed Italian protection. An agreement was made between him and the Italian Government, but the Mullah soon disregarded this agreement and commenced further aggressive actions against the tribes under British protection.

In 1908, arrangements were made for another expedition against him, but before the expedition was launched a policy of coastal concentration was adopted. In March, 1910, all troops were withdrawn from the country, except for small garrisons at the three ports of Berbera, Bulhar, and Zeilah. This policy did not prove a success, and in 1912-13 the strict coastal concentration was abandoned and administration in the interior gradually resumed. From 1914, desultory fighting continued until 1920, when a combined attack with land and air forces completely scattered the Mullah and his followers and captured all his forts and possessions. The Mullah fled, a broken man, into Abyssinia, where he died in February, 1921.

In recent years, conditions have been peaceful with the exception of inter-tribal cattle raids both in the Protectorate and outside its borders. As indulgence in these is the hereditary pastime of all Somalis, both British-protected and otherwise, they need not be regarded very seriously, as they can be checked, and are being checked, by extension of administration.

Geography.

The Protectorate of British Somaliland has for its northern boundary about 450 miles of coast-line on the Gulf of Aden and extends from Loyi Ada (Hadu), longitude $43^{\circ} 15'$ East, as far as the forty-ninth degree of East longitude, close to the town of Banda Ziada.

The Protectorate marches with Italian Somaliland from Banda Ziada to a point in latitude 8° North; thence with Abyssinia as far as Jalelo, and with French Somaliland from Jalelo to Loyi Ada on the coast.

The area of the Protectorate is about 68,000 square miles. It consists of a coastal plain varying from half a mile to 60 miles in depth, an escarpment precipitous at the eastern end, more gentle in the west, rising to 5,000 feet to 7,000 feet, and an interior plateau sloping gently south and east to Italian Somaliland and the Abyssinian Haud. The coastal plain is hot and the rainfall as a rule is sparse. The escarpment catches the rain and on the summit are to be found areas of cedar forest. The interior plateau consists in the main of level, bush-covered country interspersed with kopjes or even small detached masses of hills and with large open plains free from bush and covered with grass. The country is primarily camel country owing to the scanty water supply, but cattle thrive, especially in the hills, and sheep and goats also do excellently so long as the rainfall is up to the average.

The chief ports are Berbera, Bulhar, Zeilah, and Las Khorah.

There is a weekly steamer service from Aden.

Climate.

Somaliland has a small but fairly regular rainfall. The dry season lasts from December to March, during which period there is practically no rain. The big rains fall during April and May and they are succeeded by the S.W. monsoon (called locally the *kharif*), which blows from June till October—the hottest period of the year. The *kharif* is very trying to Europeans, particularly on the coast, where the heat and dust make concentrated work difficult.

On the higher ground in the interior the heat is at no time intolerable and the nights are generally cool.

From November to March the climate is quite pleasant, the heat on the coast being tempered by the sea breeze.

The rainfalls in the country are very local and consequently there is often considerable variation in local conditions as to grazing, rainpools, etc.

The Medical Department undertake the collection of meteorological statistics, and these are as follows :—

Station.	Total Rain-fall.	Mean Maxi-mum.	Mean Mini-mum.	Absolute Maxi-mum Temper-ature.	Absolute Mini-mum Temper-ature.	Total Rainfall.			
						1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
	Inches	Fahr.	Fahr.	Fahr.	Fahr.	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Berbera ...	1·09	92·9	78·0	111	60	2·02	6·54	0·54	0·98
Burao ...	9·07	84·8	63·5	94	50	9·78	12·30	11·89	8·96
Sheikh ...	19·90	78·6	54·0	91	39	11·70	27·38	20·59	23·51
Hargeisa ...	12·45	86·1	56·4	95	32	14·58	31·91	16·39	18·06
Zeilah ...	3·08	93·9	74·9	112	60	8·42	10·81	2·04	0·56
Buramo ...	15·99	84·1	45·1	95	25	19·79	27·79	23·24	9·58*
Erigavo ...	10·50	78·6	48·9	87	26	15·29	18·34	12·62	not re-corded

* Six months only.

Currency.

The monetary unit is the Government of India rupee and subsidiary coinage, consisting of 1 pie, 1 pice, 1, 2, 4, and 8 anna pieces. Government of India currency notes are in circulation.

The rupee maintained throughout the year the Government of India stabilised rate of 1s. 6d. with but insignificant variations, so that trade tended to become more settled and prices of commodities obtained from Europe for local consumption to remain steady.

Sufficient silver coinage was available locally without recourse to importation from Aden.

The estimated volume of currency in circulation at the close of the year was :—

Indian coins	...	...	...	...	Rs. 9,00,000.
Indian notes	...	...	...	...	Rs. 3,00,000.

Weights and Measures.

The Imperial standard of weights and measures is in force. The Indian and Somali traders also use certain of the weights and measures in force in British India.

Language.

The language is Somali, but the natives are capable linguists, and English, Arabic, and Hindustani are spoken in the coastal towns.

I.—GENERAL.

The Protectorate is administered by the Governor and in his absence by the Secretary to the Government. There is no Executive or Legislative Council. The powers of the Governor are defined in the Somaliland Order in Council, 1899, as amended by subsequent Orders in Council.

Departments of Government.

2. The Departments of Government whose headquarters are at Berbera are those dealing with Finance, Police and Prisons, Medical services, Customs, Posts and Telegraphs, and Public Works. The headquarters of the Veterinary Department are at Burao, and those of the Geological and Agricultural Department are at Hargeisa, where they are nearer the centre of their respective activities.

Military Garrison.

3. The Military Garrison of the Protectorate consists of the Somaliland Camel Corps, King's African Rifles, with headquarters at Burao and a detachment at Hargeisa.

Two aeroplanes of the Aden Squadron, Royal Air Force, are stationed in Somaliland. Aerodromes are maintained at Berbera, Sheikh, Burao, Hargeisa, Buramo, Zeilah, Las Khoreh, and Erigavo; and landing grounds at El Afweina, El-Dur-Elan, Bohotleh, Ainabo, Barran, Adadleh, Oadweina, Hudin, and Aik.

District Administration.

4. For administrative purposes the Protectorate has been divided into five districts each of which is in charge of a Commissioner. The five districts are :—

Berbera, Burao, Erigavo, Hargeisa, and Zeilah.

Political Situation.

5. The attitude of the tribes during the year has not caused any serious anxiety. There was no outstanding inter-tribal incident, though several stock-raiding loots, without which no Somali year

would be complete, were reported. The Ogaden tribe were responsible for several of these loots, which were mainly directed against the Habr Yunis and Habr Awal. The situation in the Abyssinian Ogaden country, and the frequency of raids emanating from there, have caused some anxiety.

6. A more serious cause for perturbation has been (and is at the time of writing) the situation on the Italian frontier. Under the Protocol of 1894, the northern and major portion of the boundary is the 49th meridian. This line, which is nowhere marked on the ground, cuts through the grazing grounds of some of the British-protected Somalis. Both British and Italian tribes have traditional and prescriptive grazing rights over areas on both sides of the boundary, but the Italian Government have found themselves compelled to refuse to British tribes the right to enter Italian territory. This restriction on their old grazing rights has caused much alarm and irritation to British tribes. An endeavour is being made to find a solution of the difficulty by negotiation.

The situation on the border is made still more difficult by our ignorance of the exact position of the 49th meridian. The demarcation of this is shortly to be carried out by a joint Anglo-Italian Boundary Commission and this should tend to facilitate administration on the frontier.

Abyssinia.

7. In September the Governor visited Addis Ababa, at the invitation of Ras Tafari, to attend the latter's coronation as "His Majesty King Tafari Makonnen, Heir to the throne of Ethiopia and Regent Plenipotentiary."

8. A meeting was held in September at Dagahbur in Abyssinia between representatives of the Protectorate and Abyssinian Governments with the object of putting an end to serious inter-tribal fighting which for months past had been occurring between the British Isaak Somalis and the Abyssinian Ogaden Somalis. Many representatives of both tribes attended the meeting, and eventually a peace was concluded on the basis of a mutual cancellation of all claims. Fresh looting between the tribes, however, unfortunately broke out before the end of the year.

Anglo-Italian Boundary.

9. Negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the Italian Government had been in progress for some time prior to 1928 regarding the demarcation of the boundary between British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland, and these have recently resulted in the constitution of a formal Anglo-Italian Boundary Commission to delimit the boundary line. The Commission will, it is anticipated, begin work in September, 1929. Towards the end of 1928 two British Army officers were placed at the disposal of the Somaliland Government by the War Office for the purpose of locating upon

the ground the 49th meridian which forms the boundary. Their work is a preliminary to that of the Boundary Commission.

Drought.

10. As foreshadowed in the corresponding section of the previous report, the year 1928 inherited the legacy of famine and destitution left by the disastrous drought of the previous year. The full tale would make melancholy reading; a gleam of hope, however, is afforded by the fact that the autumn rains were good and indicated a prospect of a moderately favourable winter for the stock remaining in the country. The most serious aspect, so far as the prosperity of the Protectorate is concerned, is the loss of sheep and goats, the capital wealth of the population, of which it is estimated that 80 per cent. have died. While camels did not suffer so severely in actual deaths, their efficiency as animals of burden was impaired by weakness due to starvation. Active measures were necessary for the relief of the many people rendered destitute. This eventually took the form of a central relief camp at Bulhar, to which destitutes from all parts of the country were sent, being fed and housed at Government expense. By the end of the year the camp contained the following numbers :—

Men	...	...	...	...	...	...	484
Women	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,596
Children...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,089

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

11. The revenue of the Protectorate for the year amounted to Rs. 20,99,831 (£157,487) an increase of Rs. 4,40,467 (£33,035) as compared with the revenue brought to account during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1927. The principal sources of revenue were :—

Customs Rs. 16,24,996 (£121,875) an increase of Rs. 3,60,171 (£27,013).

Licences, Excise, etc., Rs. 2,95,341 (£22,151) an increase of Rs. 42,477 (£3,186).

Fees of Court, etc., Rs. 1,01,826 (£7,637) an increase of Rs. 28,022 (£2,102).

Posts and Telegraphs, Rs. 31,465 (£2,360) an increase of Rs. 10,186 (£764).

Revenue from Government Property, £783.

12. The increase in Customs receipt is due to the large number of sheep and goat skins exported as a result of the drought which continued throughout the greater part of the year and seriously depleted the live stock in the Protectorate to such an extent that a

return to normal conditions may take several years. Also, large quantities of foodstuffs were imported for consumption by the native population.

The increase under Licences, Excise, etc., is chiefly accounted for by increased receipts under Zariba dues, which are in the nature of additional Customs dues and consequently fluctuate in accordance with the Customs receipts.

£2,574 of the increase under Fees of Court is accounted for by receipts from Government motor transport on the introduction of a system whereby Government Departments are required to afford credits for the cost of motor transport used.

Of the receipts under Posts and Telegraphs £585 represents the liquidation of an Insurance and Depreciation Fund for the renewal of the Berbera electric light plant.

£783 was collected in respect of revenue from Government property under new land legislation and the sale of the rights for one year to collect guano on Mait Island.

The revenue of the Protectorate for the last five years is as follows :—

		£	
1924-1925	} April to March ...	82,608	} 1 Rupee = 1s. 4d.
1925-1926		89,057	
1926-1927		90,569	
1927 ...	} January to December	124,452	} 1 Rupee = 1s. 6d.
1928 ...		157,487	

Public Debt.

13. The Protectorate debt due to the Imperial Treasury on the 31st December, 1928, amounted to £134,000.

This sum represents the loan-in-aid of civil expenditure for the financial years 1921/1922, 1922/1923, 1923/1924, 1924/1925; the nine months April-December, 1927, and the twelve months January to December, 1928. The loan-in-aid actually received in 1928 was £5,250. For the years 1925-1926 and 1926-1927 the deficiency between revenue and civil expenditure was met from surplus balances.

The loan-in-aid is subject to repayment as and when the finances of the Protectorate permit. No repayment has yet been made.

In addition to the loans-in-aid, the Protectorate is in receipt of an annual free grant-in-aid of actual military expenditure. The grant paid in respect of 1928 was £24,500 out of a total of £64,500 sanctioned. The total granted since the 1st of April, 1921, is £385,000.

Expenditure.

14. The total expenditure for the year was Rs. 26,48,372 (£198,628).

£7,724 was incurred in respect of famine relief measures rendered necessary by the destitution caused amongst the native population by the severe drought. £5,665 represents payments of claims by the Air Ministry in respect of the two previous years.

15. The expenditure of the Protectorate for the last five years is as follows :—

		Civil.	Military.	Total.	
		£	£	£	
1924-25	April	102,352	48,212	150,564	} at Re. 1 = 1s. 4d.
1925-26	to	103,288	64,667	167,955	
1926-27	March.	100,176	48,949	149,125	
1927 ...	January	116,617	54,490	171,107	} at Re. 1 = 1s. 6d.
	to				
1928 ...	December	135,003	63,625	198,628	

Financial Position on 31st December, 1928.

The abstract of revenue and expenditure is as follows :—

					£
Surplus, 1st January, 1928	...	...	...	...	52,041
Revenue—					£
Civil ...	...	...	...	157,179	
Military ...	...	...	...	308	
					157,487
*Grant-in-aid of Military expenditure paid within the year	...	...	...	...	24,500
Loan in aid of Civil Expenditure	...	...	...	...	5,250
					£239,278
Expenditure—					
Civil ...	...	...	...	135,003	
Military ...	...	...	...	63,625	
					198,628
Surplus, 31st December, 1928	...	...	...	...	40,650
					£239,278

Banking.

16. There are no banks established in the Protectorate, but a branch of the commercial firm of Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw and Brothers, Bombay, accept deposits from private individuals, cash cheques drawn on them, and arrange the transfer of funds to the United Kingdom and elsewhere through a branch of the firm at Aden.

There are no banking laws in force.

* Total Grant-in-aid sanctioned £64,500.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture.

17. The general scheme of agricultural work for the year was set out in detail in the Annual Report for 1927. The following is a general summary of the work carried out and the results obtained during 1928 :—

18. *Rainfall.*—The total rainfall in the Hargeisa District for the year ended 31st December, 1928, was 12.45 inches. Of this amount 2.88 inches fell between September and the end of December, so that during the normal growing season—April to August—only 9.57 inches fell. As stated in the Report for 1927, the rainfall for that year was 14.58 inches. Moreover, the rainfall in other agricultural and pastoral districts is always somewhat smaller than in the Hargeisa and Buramo Districts. When it is considered that the average rainfall for the years 1921–1925, inclusive, was between 16 and 17 inches, and that the rainfall for the year 1926 was nearly 32 inches, the severity of the drought which the Protectorate has experienced for the last two years will be fully realised. The deficiency in rainfall has tended to increase the loss of stock already met with in 1927, and has forced the natives to kill or sell much larger numbers than usual.

19. *Crops.*—The first rains fell at the end of April. By the beginning of June, the Sorghum crops in native gardens, especially in those which had been cultivated by modern implements, were in excellent condition. During July and August, however, nearly all of them except in the Buramo District were devastated by large swarms of locusts, which swept over ten agricultural districts from the east.

20. The progress and results of the planting in Government experimental plots were :—

Lucerne.—The seed germinated well, and, where shaded by trees from the mid-day sun, grew well until the middle of June. Where unprotected from the sun, it appeared to be partly burnt up. Owing largely to the extremely small rainfall in June and July particularly (no rain falling between 18th June and 29th July), the crop died off above ground. That there was still life in it, however, was shown by its re-appearance in the middle of August, after about an inch and a half of rain. The succeeding drought and the devastation caused by locusts ruined it. As the first essential for success with this crop is a good start, so that the roots can penetrate down to moisture, a drought affecting the young plants is fatal.

21. *Orchard Plot and Tree Nursery.*—All the mango seedlings continued to grow strongly until the middle of the drought, when the leaves became somewhat burnt. Of the three mango grafts, two died but the third continued to flourish.

Vine cuttings (from local vines) struck well, and, when planted out on a trellis, grew vigorously.

Passion fruit seedlings raised in boxes were transplanted in April, and, grown on a trellis, found the conditions so suitable that flowers and fruit appeared before the end of the year.

22. While on leave, the Director purchased in Australia on behalf of the Government rooted vines of the most approved table grape varieties, grafted Washington Navel seedless orange trees, grafted apple trees of approved varieties, and grafted peach, nectarine, and apricot trees.

These were planted by the beginning of October, and, except for one apricot tree, which was killed by white ants, grew strongly at once. If the experimental growing of these trees proves successful, it is intended to replace to a great extent the vines now growing in native gardens with better eating varieties, and on the seedling stocks of apples, limes, lemons to graft scions from approved introduced varieties.

23. Cheromoya seeds and Kew Pine suckers were obtained from Ceylon. The former germinated very quickly and appeared to thrive under local conditions. The pine-apple suckers, however, though shaded from the wind and sun, took a long time to strike and progressed very slowly. It is very doubtful whether their introduction will be a success in this climate.

24. Towards the end of the year, seedlings and seeds of grapefruit, Italian lemons, mandarins, and limes were ordered from India and Australia. There is good reason to believe that citrus fruits, with proper care, find the soil and climate of the hill stations congenial.

25. In the tree nursery, which has necessarily included seed boxes in the private bungalow of the Director, success was met with in growing *Melia azedarach*, *Schinus molle*, *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (sugar gum), *Bauhinia purpurea*, and *variegata*. These trees are now growing in private gardens and, particularly *Melia azedarach* and *Schinus molle*, in the native township of Hargeisa.

26. Through courtesy of the Forestry Department of Western Australia, seedlings and seeds were obtained of several species of acacia and eucalyptus, of *Sterculia gregorii* (Kurrajong), of *Agonis flexuosa*, *Robinia pseudo-acacia*, *Grevillea robusta*, and *Hakea laurina*; and those of the seedlings which survived the long ocean voyage were at once planted out. Some of all the genera are growing well under shade. Seeds were also obtained of *Ceratonia siliqua* (Carob Bean) and *pinus pinaster*, and *halepensis*. Not only is it a valuable shade tree, but also it produces a plentiful crop of very nutritive beans, which form the basis of a number of well-known cattle foods. The tree is hardy and withstands drought. Of the two species of *pinus*, i.e., *pinaster* and *halepensis*, the latter, which prefers a lime soil, will probably prove to be more suitable to the country than the former which prefers a siliceous sandy soil and does not thrive where

lime is present in quantities of over 0.4 per cent. As it has been proved that *pinus* establishes itself with difficulty in soil that does not contain the necessary bacteria, a small amount of inoculated soil was brought from Australia, so that the seedlings could be planted in it and on final transplanting could by means of a small ball of earth inoculate the surrounding soil.

27. Through the courtesy of the Director of Agriculture of Ceylon, seeds were obtained of *Albizzia lebbek*, *Leucaena glauca*, species of *Gliricidia*, some species of acacia, and species of *Casuarina*, all of which were thought to have a chance of becoming established. *Leucaena glauca* has already become established at Port Sudan though not at the same altitude as Hargeisa.

28. *Sorghum*.—Two varieties of Indian jowari were planted, sholapuri and nialo. The seed germinated well and both varieties were in good condition, despite the small rainfall, until July, when the crop was destroyed by locusts. Of the two, the sholapuri variety exhibited a somewhat stronger and quicker growth than the nialo.

29. *Ground-nuts*.—Two samples were planted, one from the Gambia and the other from Kenya. By the middle of May, both samples were well up and showed a good level crop. The growth was checked by the drought, but even in July the two crops were holding their own. In that month, however, they were both destroyed by locusts.

30. *Gram*.—Seed gram from India was sown both in drills and broadcast. The growth in both plots was excellent up to the middle of May, but thereafter the continued drought affected it and the crop was finally destroyed by locusts. There is little doubt, however, that in a normal year a good crop in both plots would be assured.

31. *Sim-sim*.—Seed from the Kavirondo Province of Kenya was sown broadcast in one plot. Though it germinated well, the crop, owing probably to the drought, was a failure, though trials in native gardens where the seed was sown amongst sorghum resulted in vigorous plants. In the plot, the plants especially the seed capsules, were attacked by boring caterpillar.

32. *Cowpeas and Kulthi*.—These grew extremely well to the end of May but were, like other crops, killed off by locusts and the drought. Tried in the orchard plot with a very moderate amount of water, they were very successful, and, without doubt, they could in an ordinary year be grown in native gardens as a cover crop with jowari.

33. *Sudan grass*.—Seed was imported from New South Wales, and broadcast in one plot. The crop showed an excellent and strong growth even as far on as July, but was then eaten up by locusts. There is little doubt that in ordinary seasons the conditions in the greater part of the agricultural areas are suitable to it and it could be cultivated annually for fodder purposes.

34. *Potatoes*.—About 12 cwt. of seed potatoes of the variety “Epicure” were purchased early in the year for experimental purposes. About 3 cwt. were planted at Sheikh and the remainder at Hargeisa. Owing to the drought, the experiment was a failure in both places. As it has been proved that not all varieties of potatoes succeed equally well in tropical conditions, the experiment is being repeated in 1929 with varieties proved to be successful in Kenya.

35. During the year, a report was received from a confectionery firm in England on the sample of 8 cwt. of gum collected in the Protectorate and sent to the firm for trial in 1927. The report stated that about 70 per cent. of the sample appeared to be similar to the gum of *Acacia Verek* obtained from the Sudan, though not quite equal to it in quality, but the remaining 30 per cent. was of inferior quality. The report also stated that in the gum residues examined by the firm distinct traces of gold were found.

36. During the year an application was made for a fibre concession to work *Sansiveria Ehrenbergii* in each of four areas in which its presence is known. There is a good prospect of the concession being taken up this year.

37. *Locusts*.—In July and August, 1928, in the middle of the poorest rainy season for many years, very large swarms of locusts, coming apparently from the eastern and south-eastern districts, traversed the country up to the western side of Gibileh, doing enormous damage. Trees were stripped, pastures were denuded, and all standing crops were completely destroyed. The damage was so great that, owing to the grave menace of further swarms of similar size in the immediate future, measures to be adopted with the object of controlling the pest had at once to be considered. The questions of importance were :—

Whether the locust forming the swarms was the same as that recognised as a menace in any other part of Africa ;

whether the swarms were a visitation from outside the Protectorate ;

whether egg-laying grounds existed or eggs were being deposited over large areas inside the Protectorate ;

and whether the Protectorate could be regarded as a centre from which migratory swarms passed to other countries.

38. Examination of the insects and comparison with known types at once showed that the swarming locust of the Protectorate was *Schistocerca Gregaria*, the same insect which forms the swarms of Arabia, Palestine, the Sudan, Kenya, and Abyssinia. Moreover, reports indicated that in 1928 large swarms entered the Protectorate across the southern border, in all probability from Northern Kenya, and that a large area of hoppers was seen in May and June of that year in the area south of Ainabo in the Burao District. Further, low-flying swarms at or near the egg-laying stage were

observed in the Erigavo District, and especially in all the *tugs** leading from the main scarp towards the sea ; and in December a large area of young hoppers was seen at Gud Anod between Erigavo and El Afeeina. The very large swarms which passed over Hargeisa and Gibileh in July and August appeared to enter Abyssinian territory in a south-westerly direction.

39. From these facts it became clear that large migratory swarms entered the Protectorate from the south ; that egg-laying grounds, at least of a temporary nature, exist in the country ; and that, while the swarms in the Protectorate are most probably due to migrations from breeding grounds in neighbouring countries, the Protectorate must also now be regarded as a breeding ground, and, consequently, as equally a place of origin of migratory flights to other countries.

40. As a necessary preliminary to the control of the pest, steps were taken at the end of the year to establish an intelligence system with the object of marking down all egg-laying and hopper areas. Methods of treatment of hopper areas will be instituted in the incoming year.

Veterinary.

41. Veterinary service is on a modest scale, as the Department only consists of one officer with some native assistants. His work is mainly the control of outbreaks of disease among the native cattle. Control of epidemics has been successfully accomplished. At the beginning of the year rinderpest and pleuro-pneumonia-contagiosa were both well established. The former was stamped out entirely by means of double inoculation and quarantine methods, and the latter reduced to one small focus by vaccination and quarantine methods.

42. Fair use was made of the sheep dip at Hargeisa, and a quantity of the dressing was issued to natives for hand-dressing their animals. A serious outbreak of ulcerative cellulitis occurred during the year and some experimental treatment was tried with a certain amount of success. African horse-sickness occurred for the first time since the formation of the Department in 1924 ; the outbreak was local, but mortality was 100 per cent.

43. At the end of the year the general condition of the animals was excellent and the outlook for animal husbandry good on the whole.

Fisheries.

44. The sea on the coast-line of the Protectorate is well stocked with fish of all kinds and several applications for fishing concessions have been received during the last few years.

* *Tug*.—A sandy river bed—dry except during rains.

There is a native pearl fishery at Zeilah. The divers run their own boats and sell the pearls to Jewish merchants in Jibuti in French Somaliland and in Aden. The local conditions would make it very difficult for a European firm to compete in this industry.

Minerals.

45. *Mica*.—The holders of the mica concession, referred to in report for 1927, sent out during the year their own mining engineer to examine the property in the light of the development work done, the amount of saleable mica obtained, and the comparative figures for results and expense. The report of the examiner being unfavourable to the prospects of the Syndicate—though some good mica was obtained—the concession was abandoned.

46. *Petroleum*.—In November a party including two geologists and a surveyor began work on the petroleum concession granted to the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company. The preliminary operations of geological survey are not yet completed.

47. *Salt*.—A concession for the production of salt from brine springs and pans at Zeilah was granted during the year and early work on the concession is expected.

48. *Gold*.—As a result of the discovery of gold in the residues of a gum sample sent to an English confectionery firm in December the Director made a preliminary investigation into the possibility of the occurrence of the metal in the area from which the gum was obtained. An examination was made to determine its geological structure and composition, and to ascertain whether quartz reefs, quartz veinlets, acid dykes, or lode were present in it, and whether alluvial gold existed in the *tug** sands. Most of the area consists of more or less metamorphosed sedimentary slates from light-grey to nearly black in colour, dipping chiefly vertically and striking uniformly north and south. The whole of the slate series is seamed with quartz reefs, quartz veinlets, and aplite and granite dykes. Some of the quartz and veinlets and reefs were distinctly "favourable" and samples were collected and sent to the Imperial Institute for assay. From what was seen, it is advisable that all foothills from Dabgadot to Ershida should be examined in the near future.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

49. The results of the drought are reflected in the trade returns for the past year. There has been a general falling off in trade, for the depletion in cattle, sheep, and goats has for the time being deprived the native of his principal purchasing power. What little possessions were left to the native have mostly been sold in order to purchase rice, dates, and sugar, the import of which consequently shows a considerable increase. There was a substantial falling off in the production of ghee, owing to shortage of milk.

* *Tug*.—A sandy river bed—dry except during rains.

Sea Customs.

50. The value of the Protectorate sea-borne trade during the year 1928 was Rs. 1,57,77,713 contrasted with Rs. 1,06,10,783 in 1927. The following comparative table shows the value of the imports and exports, excluding specie, during the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>					<i>Imports.</i> Rs.	<i>Exports.</i> Rs.	<i>Total.</i> Rs.
1924...	...	...	...	...	50,03,100	34,17,180	84,20,280
1925...	...	...	...	...	53,65,455	36,40,830	90,06,285
1926...	...	...	...	...	44,59,650	36,88,710	81,48,360
1927...	...	...	...	...	57,21,663	48,89,120	1,06,10,783
1928...	...	...	...	...	82,51,443	75,26,270	1,57,77,713

Imports.

51. The import trade in 1928, excluding specie to the value of Rs. 2,27,333, was distributed in the following proportions amongst the four Protectorate ports :—

<i>Ports.</i>	<i>Amount in Rs.</i>	<i>Percentage.</i>				
		<i>1928.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1924.</i>
Berbera ...	51,25,580	62·1	61·6	58·8	57·5	65·7
Bulhar ...	2,95,913	3·6	3·3	5·3	6·9	4·5
Zeilah...	24,90,241	30·2	32·1	32·8	32·8	27·7
Makhir Coast...	3,39,709	4·1	3·0	3·1	2·8	2·1

The following were the principal articles of import showing the countries of origin :—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Country of Origin.</i>	<i>Unit.</i>	<i>1928.</i>	<i>1927.</i>	<i>1926.</i>	<i>1925.</i>	<i>1924.</i>
American Grey Sheeting.	America via Aden.	Yds.	9,750	1,800	166,440	301,530	118,290
China Grey Sheeting.	China via Aden.	"	—	6,300	32,300	—	—
Japan Grey Sheeting.	Japan via Aden.	"	2,161,230	3,151,960	2,466,010	2,857,110	2,587,245
European white Long Cloth	Manchester via Aden.	"	1,036,510	1,990,723	1,399,902	927,226	849,025
Dates	Persian Gulf via Aden.	Cwt.	121,592	46,358	47,761	38,280	62,151
Rice	India via Aden.	"	208,462	100,515	56,259	91,971	58,251
Sugar	Java and Mauritius via Aden.	"	69,612	49,302	31,762	33,966	20,210

52. It has already been indicated that the substantial increase in the importation of dates, rice, and sugar is due to the shortage of food caused by the drought, which is also responsible for the falling off in the importation of grey sheeting and white long cloth. Japan grey sheeting continues to maintain a long lead over that from China and America, and over the white long cloth from Manchester.

Exports.

53. The export trade, excluding specie to the value of Rs. 1,21,280, amounted to Rs. 75,26,270, and was distributed in the following proportions amongst the Protectorate ports :—

Port.	Amount in Rs.	Percentage.				
		1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
Berbera ...	43,58,360	57·9	54·9	56·0	58·8	57·3
Bulhar... ..	3,36,850	4·5	6·9	9·4	8·2	8·7
Zeilah	25,84,573	34·3	31·9	28·3	29·0	30·5
Makhir Coast...	2,46,487	3·3	6·3	6·3	4·0	3·5

54. The following were the principal indigenous products, showing the country of destination to which they were exported :—

Article.	Country of destination.	Unit.	1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
Bullocks	Aden	Nos.	877	1,340	1,008	789	881
Sheep and Goats.	A few to Perim and Ceylon but majority to Aden.	Nos.	55,948	120,123	126,280	97,492	93,872
Goats.	do.	Nos.	18,595	—	—	—	—
Skins (sheep and goats).	Europe, America via Aden.	Cwt.	3,773,940	1,754,543	1,066,702	1,302,302	1,008,859
Hides.	do.	Cwt.	2,404	130	181	653	17
Gums and resins.	Europe and India via Aden.	Cwt.	14,678	5,047	6,766	5,227	5,563
Ghee.	Aden.	Cwt.	1,168	4,938	3,693	2,761	8,986

55. The drought was responsible for the increased export of skins and hides and for the decrease in the number of bullocks, sheep, and goats exported.

A most gratifying improvement is recorded in the export of gums and resins. Reference to a report on gum sent home in 1927 to an English confectionery firm appears elsewhere in this report under the heading Agriculture.

Land Customs.

56. The following are the statistics for the land Customs station at Zeilah during the last five years :—

IMPORTS.

<i>Item.</i>	<i>Unit.</i>	1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.*
Millet (Sorghum) ...	Cwt. ...	87½	661	955	1,417	4,196
Wheat ...	Cwt. ...	8½	43	Statistics are not available.		

EXPORTS.

Horses ...	Nos. ...	15	—	—	—	—
Camels ...	Nos. ...	138	18	—	—	—
Donkeys ...	Nos. ...	2	—	—	—	—
Cattle ...	Nos. ...	759	934	827	945	No record kept.
Sheep and goats ...	Nos. ...	7,675	7,421	4,905	5,901	No record kept.
Salt... ...	Cwt. ...	14,736½	15,903	19,089	20,988	26,061

* Included station at Buramo which was closed in 1925.

57. At Hargeisa duty amounting to Rs. 159/- was collected on 784 Akaras or bundles of Kat (Katha Edulis) imported from Abyssinia, and at Buramo differential duty to the amount of Rs. 2,807 was paid on goods originally imported by sea. In 1927 these items were Rs. 294/- on 1,446 Akaras, and Rs. 2,169/-, respectively.

Transit Trade.

58. Customs duty at the rate of 1 per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on all merchandise in transit between the Protectorate and Abyssinia. As will be seen from the comparative figures given below, this concession has succeeded in creating a substantial transit trade across the frontier, despite the fact that merchants using the port of Zeilah have to employ camel transport in competition with the Franco-Ethiopian railway at Jibuti :—

	1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
Value of Transit Trade	Rs. 13,89,665	14,63,849	9,00,783	7,40,455	5,02,367

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.**Shipping.**

59. The following is a comparative table of the steam and motor vessels and country craft shipping which entered and cleared from the Protectorate ports during the past five years :—

	1928.		1927.		1926.		1925.		1924.	
	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.	Nos.	Tons.
Entered	740	87,065	666	51,682	504	39,920	560	38,420	523	33,112
Cleared	722	85,936	651	50,861	511	40,870	579	37,966	523	32,588

Roads.

60. There are no railways in the Protectorate. There are approximately 950 miles of roads and cleared tracks in the Protectorate suitable for general traffic and motor transport of medium carrying weight.

The arterial roads of the Protectorate are :—

- (1) Berbera — Sheikh — Burao — Ainabo — Badwein — Adad — El Afweina — Erigavo — Barran.
- (2) Berbera—Hargeisa—Gibileh—Buramo.
- (3) Burao—Oadweina—Hargeisa.
- (4) Berbera—Bulhar—Zeilah—Loyi (French Frontier).
- (5) Zeilah to Arahallas.

The mileage of the various roads is as follows :—

						miles.
Berbera—Dubar ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Berbera—Sheikh ...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Sheikh—Burao ...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Burao—Erigavo ...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Erigavo—Barran ...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Berbera—Hargeisa ...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Hargeisa—Buramo ...	...	...	...	...	...	80
Hargeisa—Burao ...	...	...	...	...	...	114
*Berbera—Bulhar ...	...	...	...	...	...	43
*Bulhar—Zeilah ...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Zeilah—French Frontier...	...	...	...	...	...	18
*Zeilah—Arahallas ...	...	...	...	...	...	30
*Zeilah—Takushih ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total ...						940

* Only passable for motor traffic during the winter months.

Traffic has considerably increased during this year on the arterial roads Berbera—Burao and Berbera—Hargeisa.

61. It has been observed that the commercial firms are now using higher powered and larger capacity motor transport than in former years.

The number of licensed and non-licensed Government motor-cars in the Protectorate for 1928 is as follows :—

*Licensed ...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Government ...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Total...						65

* Nine cars are privately owned by Government officials.

In the Zeilah District ten motor-cars are engaged in trade between Zeilah and Jibuti, French Somaliland.

62. Four Morris commercial trucks of 16 h.p. and carrying capacity of 25 cwt. have been purchased to replace the Ford trucks.

The demands on Government transport have considerably increased during this year owing to the drought and the necessity of transporting foodstuffs to the various stations in the Protectorate.

63. The number of Government motor vehicles is as follows :—

Ford	...	...	...	...	...	10
Morris commercial	...	...	...	...	...	4
Governor's car	...	...	...	...	...	1
						—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	15
						—

The total mileage of the motor transport for the year is as under :—

						miles.
Ford	...	...	...	...	...	77,326
Morris commercial	...	...	...	...	...	19,834
						—
Total...	...	...	...	...	...	97,160
						—

The present comparative cost per ton-mile of transport by Morris truck, Ford truck, and camel is :—

						annas.
Morris truck	...	...	...	...	...	6½
Ford truck...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Camel	...	...	...	...	...	8

64. Proposals have been made by the Abyssinian Government to connect Jigjiga with the Buramo-Hargeisa motor road. It is to be hoped that the scheme will materialise, as improved communications between the Protectorate and Abyssinia cannot fail to be of political and commercial advantage to both countries.

Posts and Telegraphs.

65. The headquarters of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are at Berbera.

The revenue and expenditure of the Department in respect of the last five years are as follows :—

		1928.	1927. (nine months)	1926.	1925.	1924.
		£	£	£	£	£
Revenue ...	...	2,360	1,174	1,452	1,137	1,196
Expenditure ...	...	8,281	6,191	7,447	7,421	6,680

66. Until the end of 1886 there was no recognised Post Office in British Somaliland, and the acceptance and distribution of ordinary letters were carried out by the British Agents at Berbera, Bulhar, and Zeilah. On 1st January, 1887, the Director-General of the Post Office in India sanctioned the establishment of Post Offices at Berbera and Zeilah. The Indian Post Office Act, 1898, was applied to British Somaliland by an Order of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs dated 9th March, 1903, and the Protectorate Post Office was transferred from the Indian Administration and constituted under the above authority on the 1st June, 1903, the Protectorate becoming a member of the International Postal Union.

67. The operations against the Dervishes in 1903 necessitated the establishment of a number of Field Post Offices, the mails being carried by runners and camel riders. This system was maintained till 1925 for the conveyance of mails between the Administrative stations in the interior and, in the absence of railways and motor-cars, proved generally a cheap, reliable, and comparatively speedy service.

In 1925, a weekly motor-car mail service was inaugurated, connecting Berbera, Sheikh, Burao, and Hargeisa. Other places are still served by mail runners.

68. Direct mails, which are exchanged weekly with London, Aden, and Bombay, are carried by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's mail steamers, regular connections with which are made by local contract steamers between Aden and Berbera. Letters to and from the United Kingdom are delivered within from 12 to 14 days.

69. The issue and payment of British postal orders was introduced in January, 1905, and during the same year arrangements were made with the British and Indian Post Offices for a direct exchange of money orders. In 1907, the cash on delivery and insurance of parcels, and the value payable and insurance of parcels, etc., services were introduced with Great Britain and India including Aden, and in the following year the insured letter service to Great Britain was commenced. The insured box service with Great Britain and certain other countries was introduced in 1926. The direct exchange of money orders with the Kenya and Uganda Administration, which had been introduced in 1910, was suspended in 1921 on account of exchange difficulties. Money orders to and from the East African Dependencies are exchanged through the intermediary of the Aden Post Office.

Telegraphs.

70. The present telegraph administration is the result of evolution from and expansion and improvement of the military telegraphs used in connection with the operations of the Somaliland Field Force in 1903 and subsequently. The system has been improved and expanded with the addition of wireless telegraphy.

A land telegraph line now connects Berbera with Sheikh and Burao, which are also served by telephone.

Wireless stations ($1\frac{1}{2}$ kilowatt) are now in operation at Berbera, Burao, Erigavo, Hargeisa, Buramo, and Zeilah.

All stations are open to the public for inland and foreign telegraph traffic. The charges are :—

6 annas per word from any Protectorate station to Aden.

2 annas per word to any station within the Protectorate.

Rs. 1-14-0* per word to the United Kingdom.

Rs. 1-6-0* per word to India.

71. In April 1927, a wireless receiving apparatus for the reception of the British Official News Service transmitted from Rugby was installed and has given satisfaction.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

72. There is no Judicial or Legal Department in the Protectorate. The Criminal Courts consist of the Protectorate Court, District Courts of the first class, and District Courts of the second class. The Governor and Secretary to the Government are the Judges of the Protectorate Court. Districts Courts of the first class are held by District Commissioners and such other officers as the Governor may empower to do so. District Courts of the Second class are held by those officers empowered by the Governor to do so. The District Courts are empowered by law to try cases which are not of a serious nature. Cases beyond the jurisdiction of the District Courts, or possessing features which make a trial by the Protectorate Court desirable are committed by the District Court for trial by the Protectorate Court. In cases where appeals lie from judgments of District Courts, the appeal is to the Protectorate Court of Appeal, which is the final Appellate Court in the Protectorate.

73. The law of the Protectorate is :—

(a) Coded law, i.e., the Indian Penal Code as applied by the “Somaliland Administration of Criminal Justice Ordinance, 1926,” and local Ordinances.

(b) Tribal custom based on Mohammedan law.

A much stricter legal control is now exercised. In past years, murder and homicide among the natives have been dealt with under tribal customs, but such crimes are now tried by the Criminal Courts. The infliction of the death penalty in particularly aggravated cases has not been without its effect upon native thought ; and as the Somali realises that the death penalty may follow conviction for murder, he will doubtless as time goes on, modify his characteristic light-hearted outlook on the sanctity of human life.

* Half this rate is charged for deferred telegrams.

74. The year's record of crime shows a slight increase over that of last year. It should be explained, however, that the destitution caused by the drought (reference to which, unfortunately, looms largely in this Report) was responsible for a very large increase in petty stock thefts. With the exception of larceny, the crime statistics may be regarded as satisfactory ; in most cases, a gratifying decrease is recorded.

The Somali's inherent love of litigation continues to throw a heavy burden of work upon the administrative staff.

75. The publication of a volume of the Revised Laws of the Protectorate is in course of preparation.

Police.

76. The Somaliland Civil Police are constituted under "The Somaliland Civil Police Ordinance, 1927".

The force is under the control of the Governor and has an establishment as under :—

One Commandant,
One Assistant Commandant (who is also Director of Prisons),
One Pay and Quartermaster,
553 Rank and File ;

who were distributed as follows :—

Berbera District	...	...	...	3 officers and 196 rank and file.
Burao District	...	...	...	50 rank and file.
Nogal	...	...	...	25 rank and file.
Erigavo District	...	...	...	100 rank and file.
Hargeisa District	...	...	...	76 rank and file.
Zeilah District (including Buramo)	...	...	...	106 rank and file.

77. Attestation is for six years with option of re-engagement on completion of this period for a further three years. Rank and file are non-pensionable but are eligible for gratuities on completion of 12 years and 21 years service.

Training is carried out at headquarters in Berbera, and a musketry course is fired there by all available men. Rank and file in stations other than Berbera are under the charge of Commissioners-in-charge of Districts. Reliefs are effected as often as possible from Berbera in order that relieved men can receive training.

Garrison duties are carried out by the force at Berbera, Erigavo, Zeilah, and Buramo.

The police are liable to serve as a military force when called upon by the Governor to discharge military duties.

Prisons.

78. The established prisons in the Protectorate during 1928 were as follows :—

One Central Prison at Berbera,

Five District Prisons at Zeilah, Burao, Hargeisa, Buramo, and Erigavo.

The Central Prison accommodates all convicts sentenced to terms of imprisonment exceeding six months in addition to all prisoners convicted in the Berbera District.

The District Prisons accommodate prisoners convicted within Districts who are sentenced to imprisonment for six months or less.

The Central Prison is administered by the Director of Prisons. and each District Prison by the Commissioner-in-charge of the District.

79. As Berbera Prison is the Central Prison for the whole Protectorate the accommodation and general routine there are more elaborate than in District Prisons. The prison occupies an area of some 6,700 square yards. The whole is surrounded by a wall from 11 to 17 feet high. Accommodation is provided for male, female, and juvenile convicts and for lunatics. In addition to the usual wards and cells, the prison is equipped with a dispensary, two sick wards capable of accommodating four lying-in cases, a workshop, and the usual offices. The prison is lighted by electricity.

All prisoners on admission to the prison are medically examined. Their clothing is collected, disinfected, and stored, and after bathing they are issued with clean prison clothing. A blanket is provided for use at nights.

Water is laid on in the prison and an unlimited supply is available for drinking, washing and sanitary purposes.

Latrines are of the open type and are kept clean by flushing with water after use. Separate latrines are provided for males and females.

Prisoners wash their own clothing and are issued with soap for this purpose.

80. Committals to the Central Prison during 1928 as compared with the two preceding years were as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>For want of bail or for debt.</i>	<i>For penal imprisonment.</i>	<i>Lunatics.</i>
1928 ...	10	241	15
1927 ...	17	177	10
1926 ...	22	195	3

The increase in committals for penal imprisonment during the year is general throughout the prisons in the country.

This is attributable to the increase of offences against property by persons who have lost their stock through last year's drought.

81. The bulk of the labour provided by the prisons is unskilled, and is used on work of public utility, such as road making, quarrying stones, watering trees in Government grounds, etc.

A certain amount of skilled labour is carried out in the Central Prison where long sentence prisoners are taught to manufacture and repair articles of use to other Departments. The manufacture

of cane furniture is the main industry and the quality of this is now of such a standard that the demand is anticipated to be much larger than it has previously been.

A scheme has recently been initiated whereby it is intended to train a number of prisoners as carpenters and masons. Prisoners of good character, and with several years of their sentence to complete, are formed into classes under the instruction of skilled tradesmen in the Public Works Department.

VII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

82. The outstanding features of the year were the freedom from plague during the five months when Aden was infected; and the large increase in deficiency diseases and diseases due to starvation and unsuitable feeding.

An isolation hospital for lepers was completed in Berbera in 1927 and the construction of a lunatic asylum in Berbera is under consideration.

VIII.—EDUCATION.

83. In view of the frequent requests for information regarding education in this Protectorate, which are from time to time received from various sources, it should be explained that the Somalis in general are strenuously opposed to their children receiving any education other than that given by their own Mohammedan priests, which consists chiefly of the recitation of passages from the Koran. There is a small Government elementary school in Berbera attended by Somali, Arab, and Indian children. The average number of pupils during the year was 35. Towards the end of the year, however, the Somalis evinced surprising increase of interest in education. This is attributed to the positions in the clerical service of this Protectorate gained by three Somali boys who were sent to the Gordon College at Khartoum in 1920, and returned to Somaliland on the completion of their course at that college. In a very short time the attendance at the Berbera school increased to 90 pupils. Time will show whether the increased interest is genuine or merely ephemeral.

Towards the end of the year, by arrangement with the Sudan Government, six more Somali boys were sent for training to the Gordon College.

The general question of the extension of education in Somaliland is now under review.

IX.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

84. All land in the Protectorate except in proclaimed townships may be said to be vested in the Somali tribe. Outside the townships no individual title to land is recognised (except in the case of a few small religious settlements) nor is any sectional title to any

particular area recognised as giving any particular section of the tribe an exclusive right to that area. It is the habit of certain sections always to graze in the same area and this in practice gives them a prescriptive title to that area, but theoretically and legally individuals of other sections have the right to enter such areas and use the grazing as necessity dictates. In the western part of the Protectorate, where large areas of ground are under cultivation, the tribal title has been restricted to the extent that the right of individual cultivators to the enjoyment of the area cultivated is recognised, but only so long as effective cultivation is continued.

Government has taken powers to expropriate land for public purposes, on payment of compensation for damage done thereby to an individual or section. Land so expropriated becomes Crown land.

The township areas are divided into two classes :—

(a) Old-established towns on the coast, such as Berbera and Zeilah ; and

(b) Recently-established towns in the interior.

In class (a) freehold right to the land could presumably be established by the present owners. Actually, there are no valid deeds of ownership, and the provision of such deeds would entail such heavy work of investigation that the matter has been allowed to remain undefined. In practice, disputes as to ownership seldom arise.

In class (b), Government has introduced legislation to give to individuals a valid title to ground. All townships are of such recent growth that, except in five small plots in Hargeisa, no claim to freehold has been established, and leases or temporary occupation licences have been given to such of the present occupiers as wish to secure a legal title to their land.

X.—LABOUR.

85. The Somali has proved himself to be an intelligent and willing worker if properly led. Government has usually been able to obtain labour at a reasonable cost, but hitherto there has been little or no chance of testing the Somali under private employ.

During the past year many Somalis who would not normally have done so were driven by destitution to seek employment.

86. The terms of contract between private employers and local labour are governed by a Master and Servants Ordinance, and an Employer's Liability Ordinance.

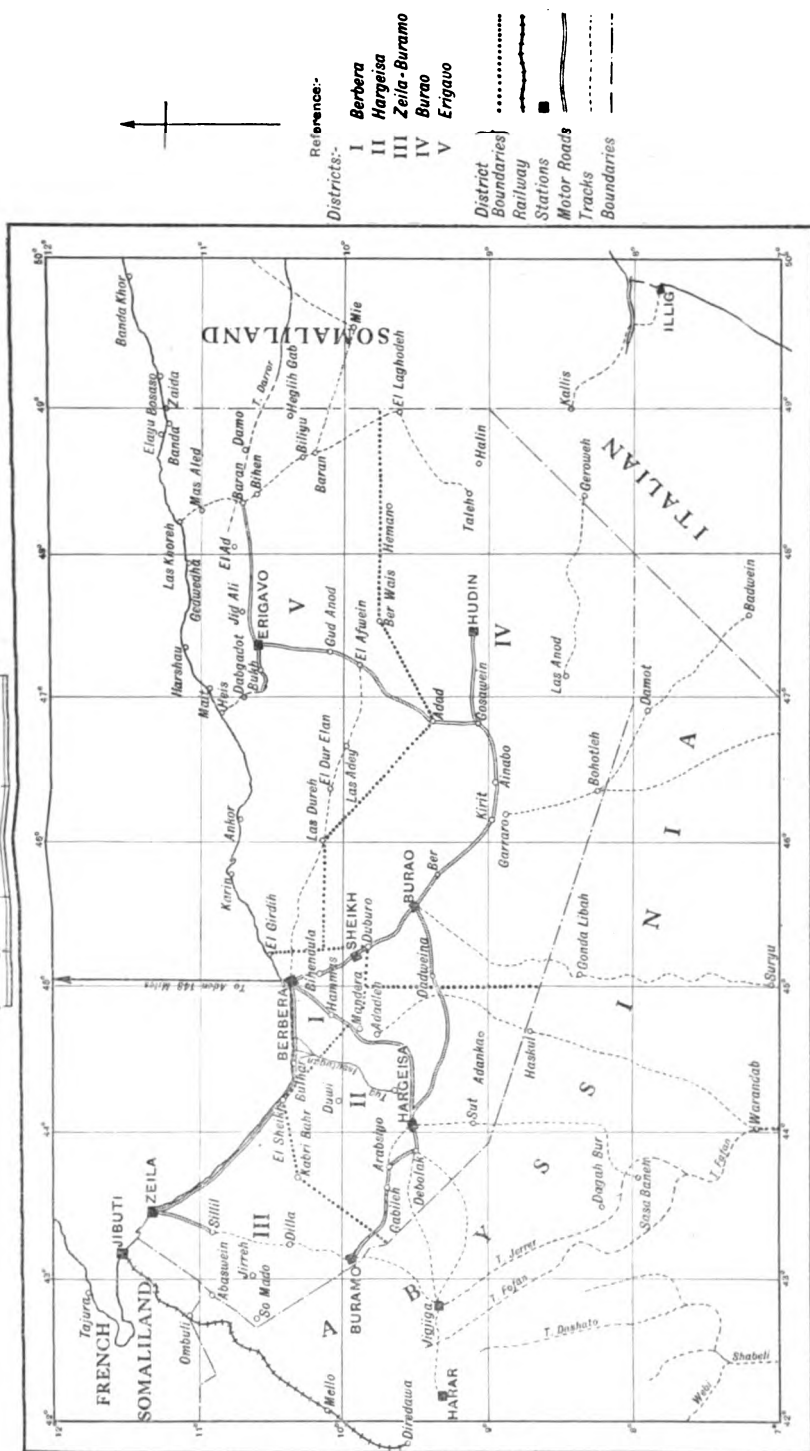
The export of unskilled labour from the Protectorate is governed by law and is subject to stringent conditions.

G. J. WELSH,

Assistant Secretary to the Government.

THE SECRETARIAT,
BRITISH SOMALILAND,
12th June, 1929.

BRITISH SOMALILAND.



Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

Report by the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P., on his visit during the period December, 1921, to February, 1922 [Cmd. 1679].

3s. 0d. (3s. 2d.).

EAST AFRICA COMMISSION.

Report.

[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

WEST AFRICA.

Report by the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P., on his visit during the year 1926. [Cmd. 2744.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1926.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2768.] 1s. 0d. (1s. 1d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2769.]

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AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION IN THE NON-SELF-GOVERNING DEPENDENCIES.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 2825.] 2s. 0d. (2s. 1½d.).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1927.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2883.] 1s. 3d. (1s. 4d.).

Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 2884.]

4s. 6d. (4s. 9½d.).

COLONIAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3049.] 9d. (10d.).

EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA.

Report of the Commission on Closer Union of the Dependencies.

[Cmd. 3234.] 6s. 0d. (6s. 5d.).

MALAYA, CEYLON, AND JAVA.

Report by the Rt. Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore on his visit during the year 1928. [Cmd. 3235.] 4s. 6d. (4s. 9d.).

COLONIAL VETERINARY SERVICE.

Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. [Cmd. 3261.] 9d. (10d.).

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLONIAL EMPIRE AND IN THE MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH COLONIAL QUESTIONS FROM NOVEMBER, 1924, TO NOVEMBER, 1928

[Cmd. 3268.] 1s. 6d. (1s. 8d.).

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No. 1452

REPORT OF THE
Colonial Survey Committee
1928

*(For Report for 1926 see No. 1325 (Price 1s. 3d.) and for Report for
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CONTENTS.

	<i>Pages.</i>
STATEMENT BY COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE.	
Uniformity in Mapping	4
COLONIAL SURVEY REPORTS.	
British Honduras, 1927	5
Ceylon, 1927 and 1928	5-7
Cyprus, 1927-28	8-9
Federated Malay States, 1927	9-10
Fiji, 1927	10-11
Gold Coast, 1927-28... ..	11-13
Hong Kong, 1927	13-14
Jamaica, 1927	14-15
Nigeria, 1927... ..	15-17
Northern Rhodesia, 1927 and 1928	17-20
Nyasaland, 1928	20
Palestine, 1927 and 1928	20-23
Sierra Leone, 1927	23-24
Straits Settlements, 1927	24
Trinidad and Tobago, 1927	24-25
Uganda, 1927	25-26
ANNEX.	
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1928	27-28

COLONIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT, 1928.

The Report reviews survey work done during the year 1927, or, in the case of Survey Departments whose departmental year ends on the 31st March, the year to 31st March, 1927. In cases where the annual report of the Survey Department has been received in time the subsequent year 1928 or 1928-29 has also been reviewed.

The following Report of the Colonial Survey Committee has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

W. C. BOTTOMLEY,
Chairman.

H. P. DOUGLAS,
*Rear-Admiral and
Hydrographer of the Navy.*

E. M. JACK,
Brigadier and D.G.O.S.

M. N. MACLEOD,
*Colonel,
General Staff, War Office.*

G. T. McCAW, }
E. B. BOWYER, } *Secretaries.*

September, 1929.

UNIFORMITY IN MAPPING.

The Colonial Survey Committee desires to re-state in the following terms, the conditions as to uniformity in topographical and cadastral maps and scales advocated in its Report of 1907.

The great variety of the natural conditions of the surface features of the Colonies, Protectorates, and Mandated Territories renders it impossible to lay down any uniform system of work in the field. Each case must be dealt with on its merits. The technical methods suitable for different types of country (such as undulating grass regions, forest clad mountainous tracts, deserts, or mangrove swamps) are well known.

Uniformity is, however, required in the following particulars :—

(a) The figure of the earth adopted for Africa is the Clarke 1880 figure except in so far as present figures in use cannot be altered.

(b) Topographical large and medium scale maps are to be bounded by roundly numbered grid lines of the same projection (also orthomorphic if possible) as that of the cadastral series, except in so far as a topographical series based on the graticule cannot now be altered.

(c) The recommendations as to scales remain as in 1907, i.e. :—

Topographical Maps.

$$\frac{1}{62,500}$$

$$\frac{1}{125,000}$$

$$\frac{1}{250,000}$$

$$\frac{1}{500,000}$$

$$\frac{1}{1,000,000}$$

Cadastral Plans.

$$\frac{1}{2,500}$$

$$\frac{1}{5,000}$$

$$\frac{1}{10,000}$$

In exceptional cases where large scale town plans are required the following scales may be adopted :—

$$\frac{1}{500},$$

$$\frac{1}{1,000}.$$

COLONIAL SURVEY REPORTS.

British Honduras, 1927.

Governor.—Major Sir J. A. Burdon, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Surveyor-General.—Mr. F. W. Brunton.

Staff.—Six surveyors and seven members of office staff.

Expenditure and Revenue.—The expenses of the Department amounted to £8,100, of which the personal emoluments were somewhat less than two-thirds. The revenue from rents, sales of land, and licences showed a gratifying increase to £5,100.

Triangulation.—Apparently the work of the year was mainly confined to reconnaissance, clearing, and beaconing, together with the choice of a site for a base of verification.

Topography.—The topographical survey was mainly of the nature of reconnaissance, particularly on the Southern Pine Ridge.

Engineering.—Engineering surveys were confined to road and water communications. Five miles of the Belize-Libun canal were laid out.

Cadastral.—Work continues on the opening of the Guatemalan boundary. The usual routine work on estate boundaries, agricultural and town lots and the like was supplemented by a re-survey of the town of Punta Gorda.

Office.—Registration, leases, sales, and licences completed the work of the Department.

Ceylon, 1927.

Governor.—Sir H. J. Stanley, K.C.M.G.

Surveyor-General.—Mr. A. H. G. Dawson.

Deputy Surveyor-General.—Mr. C. R. Lundie, A.M.I.C.E.

Assistant Surveyor-General.—Mr. G. K. Thornhill, F.R.G.S.

Staff.—Field staff about 370 ; office staff, 450 ; observatory staff, 6, including Superintendent.

Expenditure.—£240,000, of which two-thirds involves salaries, wages, &c.

Topography.—The sheets of the excellent 1-inch map of Ceylon are now all published. Revision is calculated on a 7-year cycle in the populated areas. As the Revenue Survey progresses, changes in the topography are noted at headquarters.

Triangulation.—About 40 stations were occupied for minor triangulation to control the Block Surveys. Many others have been beaconed.

Precise Levelling.—Up to date about 600 miles of accurate levelling have been completed. There are special difficulties in Ceylon, where differences of level on lines of the net sometimes exceed 6,000 feet.

Staves with invar strips are carefully standardised and the formula for permissible discordance between forward and backward levelling has been fixed as $0.005 \sqrt{F}$ feet, where 1,000 F is the distance in feet between bench-marks. Even on the lines of greatest difference of elevation, the circuits are showing admirably low closures, of the order of 2 inches on long lines. During 1927 about 20 per cent. of the lengths were relevelled. The cost, all relevant expenditure included, is 95 rupees per mile of double levelling. Intermediate bench-marks cost from 10 to 15 rupees per mark, as an average.

Block Survey.—About 130,000 acres or 200 square miles of block survey were covered during the year, at a cost varying from 3 to 7 rupees per acre and showing an average of Rs.5.67 or 7s. 6d. per acre.

Settlement and Town Surveys.—In a populous island these surveys occupy much of the attention of the Department. The Town Surveys are being based on rigorous theodolite traverses.

Application Surveys.—Application and miscellaneous surveys during the year numbered 6,500, an increase of 10 per cent. over the previous year.

Wireless Time Signals.—Time signals are emitted from the Observatory through the Welikada Wireless Station at 6 and 17 hrs. Greenwich Mean Time ($11\frac{1}{2}$ and $22\frac{1}{2}$ Local Mean Time) and are received and corrected at the Observatory itself.

Longitude.—A new wireless time determination gives the longitude of the transit instrument as 5 hrs. 19 mins. 28.69 secs. E., i.e., 0.49 secs. less than the previously accepted value. In this connection the influence of the monsoons on time determination has been very fully studied, and experiments have been conducted to test the extinction method of reception.

Meteorology.—The Department maintains its extensive meteorological services for the benefit of the Island.

Training School.—In a large service training is very necessary and a school is maintained for the purpose.

Mapping.—The demand for maps continues to grow and a new Quad Crown offset and proving press was set up. The Department so far as is known, is the only one in the Colonies which prepares plaster models, for which there is still a demand. Instead of hand colouring, these models are now covered with specially constructed lithographic prints.

Reorganization.—Re-arrangements in the Head Office have led to an improvement in accommodation for the Department.

Ceylon, 1928.

Governor.—Sir H. J. Stanley, K.C.M.G.

Surveyor-General.—Mr. A. H. G. Dawson.

Deputy Surveyor-General.—Mr. C. R. Lundie, A.M.I.C.E.

Asst. Surveyor-General.—Mr. G. K. Thornhill, F.R.G.S.

Staff.—The staff was made up as follows :—Field, 370 ; office, 450 ; observatory, 6.

Expenditure.—£250,000.

Topography.—Of the 1-inch map, 1,420 square miles were revised at a field cost of 16s. per square mile.

Levelling.—During the year, 634 miles were completed, whereof about 20 per cent. were double-levelled. The staves were recalibrated to an accuracy of about 0.00015 foot. The results show that the closing of the circuits on hilly lines is as good as on flattish lines ; the same fact has been observed elsewhere and is attributed to the shortening of the bays on heavy slopes. The permissible error is recorded in the 1927 Abstract ; actually the closures are of the order of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches—an excellent accordance. The total inclusive cost of the double levelling was £6 per mile.

Bench-Marks.—The bench-marking of 4 lines (93 miles) during the year completed the whole net. A primary bench-mark costs £2 13s. 0d. They are placed at intervals of about half-a-mile.

Tide Gauges.—The tide gauge at Colombo has been re-established and the new gauge at the R.N. Dockyard, Trincomalee, is now working.

Cadastral Surveys.—133,000 acres of block survey were measured by 170 surveyors at a cost of 7s. per acre. 22,000 acres were measured for settlement. Block plans covering 130,000 acres in 22,700 lots, and topographical plans covering 7,500 acres in 430 lots were issued to the Settlement Officer.

Town Surveys of 7 towns were completed and the plans of three of them issued. Plane-tabled on a rigorous control, the admeasurement of these congested towns costs only about £1 per acre, including the production of the plans.

For Application Surveys 5,380 demands were received during the year. About 36,600 acres in 20,500 lots were surveyed at a cost of less than 30s. an acre.

The Department is wisely paying much attention to the land-marking with a view to future saving of disputation and reparation.

Other Services.—The instructive experiments on seasonal effects on the time-keeping at the Observatory were extended and the duties of the various meteorological and training services were continued, training being provided for Railway Surveyors in addition to that for the Department itself.

Cyprus, 1927-28.

Governor.—Colonel Sir Ronald Storrs, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

Director of Land Registration and Surveys.—Mr. B. T. Watts,
O.B.E.

1. *Organization of Department.*—

(i) Survey Branch	...	...	...	Strength 88.
(ii) Valuation Branch	...	...	...	Strength 41.
(iii) General Registration Branch	...	...	...	Strength 32.

2. *Cost.*—

Expenditure incurred in year.

	£
(a) Survey	9,136.
(b) Valuation	2,830.
(c) General Registration	3,595.
	£15,561.

£203 was realized by sale of maps.

3. *Survey Branch* activities include :—

(a) Continuation of 1/5,000 plane table survey in Paphos Forest and forests above Kythrea. Average cost per acre, £0.047.

(b) Re-survey of Nicosia town. 1/500.

(c) Triangulation and traverse of Famagusta and Varosha towns for 1/500.

(d) Revision work on Town Surveys of Nicosia and Limassol.

4. *Triangulation* was involved by the above as under :—

(i) 4th order triangulation in Paphos Forest. 222 points fixed and observed at an average cost of £0.57 per point.

(ii) Fixing 45 points for new Town Surveys.

(iii) Computing above by means of Brunsviga machine.

5. *Topographical Survey.*—775 square miles were reduced to a scale of 2 inches to a mile and 1,134 square miles to the scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to a mile.

It was hoped during the coming year to reproduce part of Cyprus on a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to a mile plan.

6. *Cadastral Survey.*—1,320 traverse points were fixed for 1/500 surveys and re-surveys.

7. *Drawing, Plotting, and Computing.*—138 plans were plotted by means of the Co-ordinatograph.

Plans were checked, numbered, computed, clean-drawn, typed, and examined.

3,386 plans were sun-printed as compared with 3,333 the year before.

8. *Valuation Branch.*

The branch is divided into field and office staff.

It was hoped to complete the valuation of the whole Island by 1929, the date specified in the Law of 1907.

39 villages were dealt with, a total acreage of 106,792 acres.

The average daily output of a pair of Valuers (one Government and one popular) was 67.46, these holdings involving land, trees, or buildings. This is less by 4 than last year, but owing to the hilly country the output can be considered as satisfactory.

9. *General Registration Branch.*

This Branch comprises two sections :—

(a) The Field Record.

(b) The General Registration of Titles.

The Law of 1907 provides, in addition to the valuation of the Colony, for the registration of all unregistered holdings in a compulsory manner, with the result that after the survey a settlement of titles follows. The Field Record relates to the investigation in the field of title to property and to preparation and service of notices upon holders.

This branch refers to the preparation of Land Registers and issue of Title Deeds.

The average daily output of each field clerk amounted to 16 holdings per diem.

10. *Compulsory Registration.*

(a) The following totals show assessment and collection of fees in towns and villages compulsorily registered up to 31st March, 1928 :—

FAMAGUSTA AND NICOSIA DISTRICTS.

Registration Fees	...	...	...	...	£31,281
Collected	...	...	...	...	£28,214
Number of Title Deeds issued	...	...	...	...	437,759
Number of Plots	...	...	...	...	276,994.

(b) Registration fees collected during the year amounted to £2,247.

(c) 30,716 title deeds were issued.

(d) 14,413 plots were registered.

(e) Average daily output in title deeds issued and plots registered by each clerk during the year was 14.

This is an increase of 3 per day on the previous year due to the greater number of title deeds issued in proportion to plots registered.

Federated Malay States, 1927.

High Commissioner.—Sir Hugh Clifford, M.C.S., G.C.M.G., G.B.E.
Surveyor-General.—Mr. V. A. Lowinger.

Assistant Surveyor-General.—Mr. J. Dewar (who succeeded Major C. J. Perkins, I.S.O., in October).

Finance.—The net cost of the department was \$1,054,378, \$33,447 less than in 1926.

Progress of Revenue Surveys.—The number of requisitions outstanding increased from 15,252 to 18,523 during the year.

Triangulation.—The triangulation of Pahang was completed. No standard traversing or precise levelling was done in 1927.

Topography.—Approximately 1,321 square miles were surveyed; the cost varying from \$132 per mile for the standard sheets in Kedah, to \$7,721 per mile for the 80-inch town plan of Kuala Lumpur.

Map Production.—The output of the photo-litho station was nearly double that of 1926, with a corresponding increase of revenue from the sales thereof.

Various forest maps were produced from air photographs supplied by the Air Survey Company.

Meteorology.—The responsibility for meteorological activity came under the Survey Department as from the 1st January, 1927.

A comprehensive scheme has been approved by the Governments of the Federated Malay States, Straits Settlements, and Unfederated Malay States, whereby 17 "second order stations" will be established in the peninsula. By the end of 1928 nine of these should be at work.

In addition it is hoped to establish with the co-operation of the planting community 200 (and eventually 500) minor stations for temperature and rainfall observation.

Training.—Recruiting has been carried on satisfactorily, in spite of a scarcity of suitable applicants.

A successful refresher course for subordinate officers was held at Port Dickson during February.

The results of the 1927 examinations have been particularly gratifying.

General.—The 20-year-old departmental regulations have been re-written and published during the year.

Fiji, 1927.

Governor.—Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G.

Commissioner of Lands.—Mr. C. A. Holmes.

Staff.—Lands Department: 5 surveyors, 5 draughtsmen, and 3 clerks. Native Tribal Boundary Survey: 6 surveyors, 2 native draughtsmen, and pupils.

Triangulation.—New secondary trigonometrical stations to the number of 15 were established. There are now 213 of such stations in Viti Levu, and 93 in Vanua Levu. Eight beacons were reconditioned.

Main Traverses.—There were run 32 miles of control traverses. It would be interesting to know the closures obtained, as well as the method of tying into the trigonometrical controls where, as commonly, the slopes encountered present much more than ordinary difficulty.

Native Tribal Boundary Survey.—The area covered was 58,860 acres in 222 lots, averaging 265 acres per lot. With a view to increasing progress, four new surveyors will be added and two vacancies filled. The wooded nature of much of the country and labour difficulties rendered progress slow.

Investigation Surveys.—Of the plans presented by the six licensed surveyors in the Group, 450 were passed, covering 7,852 acres. To check plans which were found to be incompatible with insertion on the standard sheets, 42 investigation surveys were executed.

Miscellaneous Surveys.—These dealt with seven Crown and 14 Native Leases, sub-divisions, and minor surveys in towns. Awaiting survey there are 58 Crown and 620 Native Leases ; this is a reduction of the total by 215 since the previous year. The arrears are being steadily reduced ; moreover some of the properties on the books have probably been abandoned.

Registration.—Titles of new, extended, transferred, and resumed leases, to the number of 1,253, were sent for registration.

Mapping.—Nearly all the mapping is cadastral, five new sheets of the Tribal Boundary Survey were undertaken, bringing the total to 116. A new plan of Suva was prepared for publication and small-scale tourist and forest maps issued, the latter in connection with a renewal of interest in forestry. 1,183 plans and tracings and 239 sun-prints were produced.

Gold Coast, 1927-28.

Governor.—Sir A. Ransford Slater, K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

Surveyor-General.—Mr. J. Clendinning, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.

Deputy Surveyor-General.—Mr. F. W. Mindham, B.Sc., F.R.G.S.,
F.R.A.I.

Staff.—Office staff of 77, field staff of 97, including three special parties, i.e., Cadastral Framework Party, Topographical Survey and International Boundary Surveys, and Forest Reserves Boundary Survey.

Topographical Work.—Except for a small area, which would probably be taken in hand in October, 1928, the topographical map is now complete as far north as the 7th parallel.

The western frontier topographical sheets are now completed to the actual frontier from the sea as far north as 8° 30' N., with the exception of a strip of country 30 miles by 7 miles.

Lines of levels, 500 miles in extent, have been completed in the Mandated Territory, thus providing a vertical framework for topographical survey. In addition other lines of levels and astro-radio points have been laid down.

Revision of some of the earlier topographical sheets has begun. As a very accurate primary framework is now available over a considerable portion of the southern half of the Colony, work will be adjusted to the new values on sheets that are being redrawn. Subsequent editions will be more complete and more accurate. Apart from the Boundary Commissions, future topographical work will be divided into revision and original surveys. The latter, in the majority of cases, being hung on astro-radio points, will form the first edition, but as revision proceeds this will be replaced by more accurate editions.

Cadastral Work.—Provincial survey sections have carried out various Boundary, Railway, and Acquisition Surveys as well as some Town Surveys and preliminary surveys for land disputes. Some town revision has been begun.

It was found that a Town Survey carried out by native surveyors was satisfactory as regards accuracy, but that the cost was high when there was no European supervision.

The total costs of Town Survey have varied from £1,283 to £2,223 per square mile.

Forest Reserve Boundary Surveys have been proceeded with, bringing the total area surveyed up to 31st March, 1928, to 783.85 square miles and the total perimeter to 884.3 miles.

A special Town Survey party was to start work in October, 1928. It was estimated that surveys of 46 towns were needed, and the expenditure, to be spread over five years, would be £60,000.

Cadastral Framework.—One party was employed on this work and completed 100 miles of traverses during the year. The total error on a completed traverse of 401,700 feet was 12.55 feet—a satisfactory result.

International Boundaries.—The boundary between the Gold Coast and the Ivory Coast should be complete by June, 1928. Some difficult country was encountered with hills up to 2,000 feet and slopes up to 42°.

The boundary between French and British Mandatory spheres in Togoland should be complete by June, 1929. The main work of the British party was the topographical survey of a strip of difficult country two miles wide. This survey was hung on astronomical points and on a traverse line between these points.

Wireless Time Signals.—Eighteen points were fixed during the year by this method, bad weather delaying the star observations in many cases.

The new short wave-length signal (32 metres) from the Eiffel Tower appears to be more satisfactory than the Bordeaux signal on a wave-length of 18,900 metres.

Difficulty was experienced in getting good results from the time sent from Greenwich via Rugby (GBR), as no warning signal was sent.

Star Observations.—The method of obtaining local time was that by observations on pairs of east and west stars. A probable error of less than $\pm 0.5''$ was normally attained.

For the latitude of pillars to be used in the Boundary Commission Survey the circum-meridian method was used. A probable error of less than $\pm 0.2''$ was obtained.

For topographical framework only four shots were taken on each star, thus cutting down the time on one star from 8 minutes to 3 minutes.

Astronomical observations were taken at one point on the main triangulation, the following being the results :—

	<i>Trigonometrical.</i>	<i>Astronomical.</i>
Latitude ...	... $5^{\circ} 16' 18''.9$ N.	$5^{\circ} 16' 22''.5$ N.
Longitude ...	... $1^{\circ} 58' 23''.6$ W.	$1^{\circ} 58' 34''.9$ W.

Reproduction Department.—In addition to the normal work of this department a book of maps and diagrams forming an "Atlas of the Gold Coast" was produced.

Survey School.—A small Survey School, for which new buildings were under construction, was maintained.

During the year, 15 boys were under training as surveyors and four as building inspectors.

Hong Kong, 1927-28.

Governor.—Sir C. Clementi, K.C.M.G.

Superintendent of Surveys.—Mr. E. B. Reed, P.A.S.I.

Assistant Superintendent of Surveys.—Mr. F. Sutton, F.S.I.

The Survey Office forms part of the Public Works Department.

The staff consisted of 9 Europeans and 27 Chinese, and in addition 73 Coolies, at wages varying from \$11.00–\$25.00 (22s. 6d.–51s.) per mensem were employed. The cost of the Survey Office excluding overhead charges was nearly \$153,000, or £15,618 approx.

Trigonometrical Work.—The eastern portion of the Colony on the mainland, which was not included in the main triangulation, was completed. The stations, which were beacons, formed a system of 22 triangles, the average correction for error to each triangle being $3.2''$. The work was tied in to the main triangulation of the Colony.

On the island of Hong Kong beacons were erected on a further 8 stations, which together with others from which observations were made, were tied in to the original triangulation with very good results.

Permanent cairns were erected at eleven stations and these will be eventually connected up to the main triangulation.

Revenue Surveys and General.—Surveys were made for plans to be attached to Crown leases for 285 lots. Four surveys totalling 375 acres were made in detail and large scale contour surveys of six areas, amounting to 163½ acres.

A survey of the Kowloon Bay reclamation came to 183 acres, and two others on Hong Kong Island were commenced.

Boundaries of 146 lots were defined and boundary stones fixed to 212 lots. Numerous other lots were roughly delineated, street frontage lines were checked, and numbers of permanent marks at the intersection of streets and proposed streets were fixed. Many other small surveys of miscellaneous character were made and plans prepared for departmental uses.

Ordnance Survey.—Revision work has been carried out to the extent of 18 acres and 6 areas of 800 acres in all have been surveyed during the period. Two traverses of 4.8 and 9.12 miles respectively were run.

New Territories.—Of these, the most important surveys covered an area of 614 acres, the total length of traverses being 85,500 feet.

Jamaica, 1927.

Governor.—Sir R. E. Stubbs, G.C.M.G.

Surveyor-General.—Mr. W. Anthony Baker, F.R.G.S., F.S.I.

There is in the strict sense of the term no Survey Department in the Colony. The Lands Department is charged with the administration of the Crown lands, about 281,000 acres, and as its name implies, is primarily a Lands Department.

The staff consisted of 1 Assistant Surveyor-General, 3 surveyors, 1 draughtsman, and 5 clerks. The gross expenditure was £5,363.

Surveys.—There was a shortage of staff during most of the year and moreover it was found difficult to secure the services of surveyors in private practice for surveying and allotting lands sold to small settlers. The surveys performed were all cadastral in character, showing in the case of closed traverses errors ranging between 1 in 300 to 1 in 15,700. The lineal extent covered by these surveys amounted to 33½ miles at an average cost of £6 18s. 5d. per mile with an average daily progress of 48 chains.

Checking and Preparing Plans for the Registration of Titles.—The method of testing plans was purely theoretical and proved unsatisfactory. In every case, without exception, in which the Department made a test on the ground, inaccuracies were disclosed which would otherwise have passed the theoretical test.

During the year, only 22 per cent. of plans submitted passed the examiner on first submission.

The work done for the Titles Department is increasing year by year, the amount done in 1927 being 95½ per cent. more than that in 1922.

Maps.—A number of maps, plans, tracings, and prints were prepared for official use or supplied to the public.

Crown Land Development did not make much progress and the surveying and permanent marking of the proposed Blue Mountain Forest Reserve was still in abeyance at the end of the year, owing to lack of funds.

Nigeria, 1927.

Governor.—Sir Graeme Thomson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

Surveyor-General.—Capt. T. J. Waters, R.E.

Deputy Surveyor-General.—Capt. J. Calder Wood, M.C.

Assistant Surveyors-General.—Capt. T. H. Galbraith, M.C., and Capt. C. G. Evans, R.E.

Staff.—The nominal roll contains 41 surveyors and 4 officials on the Headquarters staff. There are in addition special parties as follows :—

2nd Colonial Field Survey Section—5 officers and 24 N.C.O.'s.

Topographical Survey and Wireless Officer—6 officers.

Besides this staff a number of Africans are employed in the Provinces. Thus, in the Southern Province there are 27 surveyors and 13 pupils ; 17 draughtsmen and 8 pupils. In the Kano Section there are 106 employees, 17 of whom are under the Government.

Triangulation.—A base was selected near Minna in the chain of the first group, stretching from Minna to Eruwa. The method of observation would appear to prescribe measurement of angles in all combinations on five arcs, but it is not stated how the weights of the measures are dealt with ; obviously uniform weight throughout the chain is at least desirable. The principle of limiting the number of angles in a round is clearly sound. In the Minna-Eruwa chain 50 stations were fixed and 30 occupied for observation. The inclusive costs per station were : clearing and beaconing, £44 ; observing, £29. A new type of quadripod beacon was adopted. Of squared timber, treated with solignum and embedded in concrete feet, it is strengthened with iron junctions, covered as to its upper position with matchboarding and crowned with a small inverted quadripod, so that the total height is about 20 feet.

The Udi-Lokoja-Abuja group found themselves faced with a terrain unfavourable for triangulation ; the difficulties were overcome only by the selection of two tower stations. Nine points were beacons and 9 occupied for observation.

Determinations of latitude and wireless longitude were made at Eruwa, Minna, Kano, Jos, and Lefin Lafia. On the completion of the Minna-Eruwa chain these measures will be combined to derive a provisional standard latitude and longitude for the Colony.

The secondary triangulation is included under topography.

Traverses.—A control traverse of 80 miles from Lagos to Abeokuta was stopped by reason of sickness. In the Kano section secondary traverses showed an average error of $1/8,000$.

Topography.—Two important decisions were made: (1) it was decided to form a trigonometrical framework sufficient for cadastral work as well as topography; (2) in view of the necessities of the Geological Survey, it was agreed to expedite topography by mapping on the scale of $1/125,000$ instead of $1/62,500$. The secondary beacons are now erected on concrete pillars; the secondary sides are from 8 to 10 miles in length and minor points are fixed at intervals of 4 miles.

The Topographical Party No. 1 in the Minna district reconnoitred, beacons, and observed on a secondary chain which was frequently closed on primary points. The maximum error was $9''$ while the average was $3''$. Of primary and secondary points 9 and 34 respectively were occupied for observation, and 54 minor points fixed by intersection and resection, covering an area of 1,800 square miles. As far as possible the plane table was used, but the long grass in places necessitated chain and compass traverse and barometric heights. The rate of work averaged 5 square miles per man-day.

In the Nsukka district Topographical Party No. 2 observed at 24 secondary stations and fixed 12 minor points, which latter were marked only when there was no natural object, such as a tree, on the site. The maximum error of the secondary chain was $10''$ and the average $4''$. Nearly 5 square miles per man-day was the topographic output.

See also the later reference to work at Kano.

Cadastral Survey.—The survey of Lagos on the scale of 5 feet/1 mile has been completed and reproduced by W. and A. K. Johnston. These sheets were reduced photographically to the scale of $1/2,400$. Investigation of titles on Lagos Island involved much labour. In the Southern Provinces a town planning scheme was surveyed at Yaba; here again investigation of titles led to an overburden on the Department. Two provincial boundaries were demarcated and various miscellaneous surveys undertaken, especially one of a reclamation scheme at Calabar; those which are isolated are expensive. There was heavy work in the drawing office and the decentralization of buildings is a handicap to the Department. Over £1,500 was recovered from fees.

In the Northern Provinces, cadastral survey is on a different basis, part pertaining to the local administration. Lay-outs for towns form an important section of the work. The Minesfield demands special survey parties. Two licensed surveyors are now engaged on the plateau. In the Minesfield, 370 mining leases covering 49,500 acres and 256 exclusive prospecting licenses, involving 730 square miles, were surveyed by the Royal Engineer Special Party, the

total fees amounting to £21,000. The departmental section's corresponding numbers were 97 Mining Leases and 99 Exclusive Prospecting Licenses, with fees totalling about £8,000. By the end of the year the arrears were reduced to 235 areas.

In the Kano Section the Revenue Survey performs the greater volume of work, with a total staff of 57 and an annual output now exceeding 80,000 acres. Here topographical sheets are being prepared by reduction from 1/2,500 to 1/62,500. Sheet No. 458 was completed during the year, while two others are in hand.

Reproduction.—The lithographic plant was removed from Kano to Lagos. The Fuka sheet on the 1/125,000 was plotted on the transverse mercator projection and its reproduction is very creditably executed. A new road map of the Northern Province was prepared on the scale of 1/M., together with a map of the Northern Cameroons.

Survey School.—This has been established at Ibadan in offices abandoned by the Royal West African Frontier Force; it accommodates about 40 pupils. Prospects appear very hopeful.

General.—The Department is occupied with surveys of a very varied nature, which adds to the difficulty of successfully summarising here its activities.

Northern Rhodesia, 1927.

Governor.—Sir J. C. Maxwell, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.D.

Director of Surveys.—Mr. W. G. Fairweather, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.

Deputy Director.—Mr. L. W. G. Eccles, M.C.

Staff and Expenditure.—The staff consists of 10 members, to whom a draughtsman is now added. The cost of the Department is increasing with the development of the Colony and the fees recoverable are apparently increasing at a somewhat greater rate, as the following statement indicates :

	1925.	1926.	1927.
Cost	£6,219	£7,900	£9,625
Fees Recoverable	£1,969	£1,178	£4,238
Percentage Ratio	32	15	44

Work done (Cadastral).—The main work of the year is shown in the following tables :

	No.	Acres.
Farms surveyed	69	61,143
Small Lots surveyed	281	833
Native Lots surveyed	1,640	878

Road Traverses... .. 316 miles

Demarcation of Nyasaland Border 130 „

Tanganyika District Native Reserves.

Ground control for Air Survey of Townships 360 sq. miles.

Miscellaneous work under various headings which cannot be classified completes the record of the year. Some of this, undertaken for other Departments, is not directly remunerative.

	No.	Acres.	Purchase Price. £	Annual Rents. £
Title deeds—Farm ...	46	16,428	19,263	—
Title-deeds—Plots ...	42	74	3,535	—
Permits of Occupation ...	26	76,487	11,669	597
Leases... ..	99	24,131	9,745	4,128
Totals... ..	213	117,120	£44,212	£4,725

Of the 152 survey diagrams presented for registration, &c., 7½ per cent. were returned for correction and 10 per cent. rejected as inadmissible.

Topography, Air Survey, and Hydrology.—The demand for maps on the scales 1/M and 4/M, particularly the latter, is considerable. The 1/M map is being redrawn and “degree sheets” are being recompiled on polyconic graticules as routine work permits.

The presence of the Aircraft Operating Company in the Colony has provided the opportunity for making contracts at favourable rates. In order to study the hydrology of the Upper Zambesi, a contract was placed with the Company for air photography of the river and its tributaries at low water. The cost is about £12 10s. 0d. per mile of main river.

The sites of 4 townships, about 400 square miles, in all, were photographed at a cost of £2 5s. 0d. per square mile.

Photographs of the area under the Border Concession will be supplied to the Government at a low rate.

One of the important questions facing this survey department appears to be the reproduction of its maps and plans. A small lithographic plant, possibly run largely by native labour, might add considerably to its value in development and in land settlement.

General.—The report is filled with admirable statistics of a general nature; but its value would be increased if statistics of a technical nature were included.

Northern Rhodesia, 1928.

Governor.—Sir J. C. Maxwell, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.D.

Director of Surveys.—Mr. W. G. Fairweather, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E.

Deputy Director.—Mr. L. W. G. Eccles, M.C.

Staff and Organization.—The effective staff, consisting of 12 Europeans, was much depleted by leave, resignation, and sickness. The office absorbs twice as much time as the field work. Branch offices are established at Kasama and Lusaka.

Triangulation.—A small area was triangulated in the vicinity of the Victoria Falls, in view of possible power development.

Cadastral Survey.—At Kasama 39 plots of 1,000 acres and 7 farms of 22,350 acres were surveyed. At Lusaka the work covered 3 farms, 2 mineral concessions, and 81 small plots. In comparing the figures for 1927, it was found that 24 farms, averaging 340 acres each, were surveyed at the rate of 66 acres per man-field day and at a cost of 1*s.* per acre, a much higher cost than usual; beacons averaged $2\frac{1}{4}$ per farm, the survey being based on triangulation. Traverse surveys of 35 farms, averaging 540 acres each, cost 7*d.* per acre, the rate of progress being 140 acres per man-field day and 96 acres per total man-day; here there were established $7\frac{1}{2}$ beacons as an average per farm. Small plots, not exceeding 10 acres, cost from 17*s.* to 53*s.* per acre; while compass and plane-table surveys of large farms can be executed at the rate of 900 acres per man-field day at a cost of 1*d.* per acre. These cost rates do not include travelling and transport, leave, pensions, and various smaller items not negligible in the aggregate.

In all, the surveys controlled by the Department covered farms containing 106,500 acres and plots amounting to 290 acres. £5,100 was recovered in fees for survey, issue of title, permit of occupation, &c. The Director adverts to the impossibility of his checking in the field the non-departmental work.

Townships.—The lay-out of Choma was supplemented by miscellaneous work at Monze, Mpulungu, Ndola, Abercorn, and the new settlement of Luanshya. The photo-mosaics of Livingstone, Mazabuka, Lusaka, and Broken Hill have been passed to the Department.

Levelling.—Four cross sections were made of the Zambezi river.

Demarcation.—117 miles of the boundary between Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland were demarcated by one surveyor at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles per month and at a cost of £6 per mile. The beacons, placed at 0.3 mile apart on the average, cost 36*s.* each.

Air Surveys.—(a) Nearly 600 miles of the Zambezi and its affluents the Kabompo and Lungwebungu were photographed from the air; the controls were astronomical and radiotelegraphic, and the mapping at 4 inches/1 mile is well in hand. (b) A second contract involved oblique photography on the Congo Border; 14 sheets have already been received. These will be reduced to form $4\frac{1}{2}$ sheets of the 4/M map of the Colony. (c) The third contract covered with vertical photographs the townships of Livingstone, Mazabuka, Lusaka, and Broken Hill. The detail is being transferred by eidograph direct from the photograph to the map and the Director observes that, after comparison with measurements made on the ground, the errors of this method of plotting are found to be negligible on a scale of 1/2,400.

In the region (b)—a country of undulating bush interspersed with streams and glades (*dambo*)—under a suitable climate, he considers

that a combination of obliques with verticals taken on **definite** lines, controlled by stellar and wireless fixings, will produce a **4/M** map with both accuracy and rapidity in excess of ground methods.

Road Traverses.—280 miles were measured at a cost varying from 3s. 6d. to 9s. per mile run.

Mapping.—The 1/M map has been issued in a revised form. The 1/4 M general map was reprinted. Four new sheets of 4/M map were published. Sales realized £74 and the demand is **increasing**.

Office.—560 deeds were drawn up and 74 tracings made for sun-prints. Meteorological results are normally issued, but could not be typed during this year. The office accommodation is reported inadequate.

General.—Notwithstanding depletion, this small Department handles no mean volume of work.

Nyasaland, 1928.

Governor.—Sir C. C. Bowring, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.

Lands Officer.—Mr. J. E. Alexander.

Staff and Expenditure.—The staff consists of 5 Europeans and 5 Africans, and the expenditure was £4,100, whereof about four-fifths consisted of personal emoluments.

Cadastral Work.—47 blocks of land, covering 21,000 acres, were surveyed in different districts. The inclusive cost is slightly under 4s. an acre or £80 per block.

Mapping.—Progress has been made with the revision of the 1/M map.

Palestine, 1927.

High Commissioner.—Field Marshal the Rt. Hon. Baron Plumer, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., G.B.E.

Director of Surveys.—Major C. H. Ley, O.B.E.

Trigonometrical Survey.—The whole of the principal triangulation has been adjusted in two sections, the southern involving 114 and the northern 117 equations of condition. In consequence the north-south displacement rises to a maximum of 0."22 on the Syrian frontier and the east-west to 0."13 at the Lake of Tiberias. The azimuths are improved.

120 stations have been added to the net of the 3rd order, bringing the total to 860 stations of density 9 per 100 square kilometres, or about 1 in every square of 2-mile side.

The fourth-order net has been increased by 1,660 trigonometrical and 260 traverse stations, making a total of 13,500 minor points or about 235 per 100 sq. kms., equivalent to 6 per sq. mile.

Trigonometrical levelling from the Imara Base to Jaffa shows an error of 1/12,500 of crow-line distance, say, 10 seconds, of arc in measured distance. On the coastal plain the average coefficient of refraction is 0.06, but this appears to increase rapidly inland.

Levelling.—Tide gauges will shortly be set up at the ports of Jaffa and Haifa. Second-order levelling, amounting to 119 kms. of line, was carried out in the town-planning areas of Jaffa and Tel Aviv, 119 B.Ms. being fixed. The seasonal variation of the level of the Dead Sea is being investigated.

Projection.—The projection is Cassini's on the meridian of Jerusalem and the Clarke (1880) spheroid is to be made standard.

Cadastral.—In Ramleh and on Carmel 295,000 metric dunams have been surveyed by the topocadastral method, i.e., 114 square miles, mapped on the scale 1/2,500. These plans will be reduced to 1/20,000 for general purposes.

On the coastal plain below Rehoboth, about 125 square miles were surveyed on the plane table at a scale of 1/10,000 and at a cost of 2 mils per dunam (about 2*d.* per acre).

The revision of the plans of Jerusalem (1/2,000) and the survey of Haifa (1/2,500) were begun during the year and the latter is in process of completion.

The total area of chain survey undertaken during the year was 14 square miles at an average cost of 13*s.* per acre, parts of the areas being close and difficult.

Various schemes for drainage, irrigation, &c., were also completed during the year.

575 plans by licensed surveyors were checked and 1,379 plans for registration were examined on the ground before acceptance. This control is therefore complete, but entails heavy duty.

Topography.—In the sinuous scrubby gorge of the Jordan nearly 60 sq. miles were plane-tabled at a scale of 1/5,000. For work of this class in an area where the present value of the work is topographic and the undertaking is arduous, it would seem that the aeroplane could be employed with advantage to all.

Reproduction.—Lithographic printing is making headway and machines may become necessary.

Units.—The following table shows the English equivalents of some Palestinian units. The *Mil* is about one farthing, actually 0.24*d.* The £P. has the same value as sterling. The *Metric Dunam* is apparently one-tenth of a hectare.

1 Native Dunam	=	919 sq. metres	=	0.2271 acre.
1 Metric Dunam	=	1,000 "	=	0.2471 "
1 acre	=	4.047 m. dunams	=	4.403 n. dunams.
1 square Mile	=	2,590 m. dunams	=	2,818 "
20 mils per metric dunam	=	1 <i>s.</i> 7½ <i>d.</i>		per acre.

The technical information in this report is excellent.

Palestine, 1928-29.

High Commissioner.—Lieutenant-Colonel Sir J. R. Chancellor,
G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O.

Director of Surveys.—Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Ley, O.B.E.

Triangulation.—The completed and adjusted main network was connected with the triangulation of Syria by a French officer. To the triangulation of the 3rd order 162 stations were added, making a total of 1,022, averaging 1 per 12 square kilometres. The 4th order net in the Maritime Plain and Jordan Valley contains 15,600 stations, having a density of about 7 per square mile.

Tide Gauges.—Primary and secondary tide gauges are maintained at Haifa and Jaffa. The ordinary rise of springs is about 15 inches.

Dead Sea and Lake Tiberias.—The regimen of these two lakes is found to be closely correlated. The flood in the Dead Sea is about half the amount and six weeks in retard of the April flood in Tiberias, which has an amplitude of 1.2 metre. At present mean lake level is falling in both cases.

Cadastral Surveys.—Large-scale survey is now confined to areas for registration at settlement, which, together with the introduction of valuation, has led to the change of system.

Preliminary topocadastral survey, plane-tabled on the scale of 1/10,000 and executed by sheets, is reduced to 1/20,000 as a provisional series for showing "fiscal blocks"; the latter are subdivided into "registration blocks," in advance of settlement, which are plotted on "registration-block plans" at the scale of 1/2,500, whereon are sketched property rights and areas for partitioning. These 25-inch plans, after adjudication, demarcation (if necessary) and final survey, are deposited for registration.

245,000 acres, involving 46 villages and 965 fiscal blocks, were thus surveyed on the 1/10,000 scale at a cost of 3*d.* per acre. In addition, over 10,000 acres on the River Kishon were surveyed by the topocadastral method on the scale of 1/2,500 at a cost of 7*d.* per acre. It is proposed to show approximate contours on these maps in future. (1 mil per dunam is closely 1*d.* per acre).

Chain Survey.—In the close orchard country around Majdal and elsewhere, chain survey of 5,500 acres in 62 blocks was finished during the year at a field cost of 6*s.* per acre. In some villages chainage was carried over roofs. Eighteen villages were chain-surveyed at a cost of 37*s.* 6*d.* per acre—a very reasonable figure.

Town Surveys have occupied more of the field time of the Department than is usual. The surveys of Haifa, Tul Karm, Gaza, and Beisan are complete and block plans ready for issue; others are in progress. The field costs on the scales of 1/2,500 and 1/1,250 have been 27*s.* and 61*s.* per acre respectively, including about 22½ per cent. for examination.

Special Surveys covered about 76,000 acres, whereof 55,000, between the Dead Sea and Jericho, was surveyed topographically at a cost of £9 per square mile.

Mapping.—A new flat-bed power press was added. Two of the provisional sheets of the new 1/20,000 series were issued; the sheets, in three colours, show trigonometrical points and heights thereof, approximate contours in red, isolated hills in hachures, cultivated lands, and boundaries. Numerous zincographic and other prints were produced.

Miscellaneous.—Plans by licensed surveyors are now checked by a special inspectorate. Ten surveyors and 9 draughtsmen were in training. New roads have considerably improved transport. The unavoidable evacuation of the old survey quarters has led to proposals for a new and more convenient site. A new Survey Ordinance, to replace the present three Ordinances, has been submitted.

Sierra Leone, 1927.

Governor.—Brigadier-General Sir J. A. Byrne, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B.

Director of Surveys.—Major J. Dare, M.C.

Staff.—At the end of 1927 the staff consisted of 7 Europeans and 25 Africans. There were also 24 African pupil surveyors, and as locally trained men became available 5 Gold Coast surveyors previously lent to Sierra Leone returned during the year.

Topographical Branch.—The work was much hindered by sickness. Twelve points were fixed by astronomical observation and wireless-time signals. Azimuths were observed at each point and magnetic variation determined. All points were fully beaconed.

273 miles of instrumental levelling was completed.

8,360 miles of compass traverse with aneroid levels were run. This represents the detail survey of about 6,000 sq. miles of country on 20 field sheets, on a general basis of $1\frac{1}{2}$ traverse miles per sq. mile of country.

Fifteen field sheets, on the scale 1/62,500, were sent to Accra for publication.

An increase in the proportion of African to European staff has reduced the cost from £413 to £308 per field sheet, but it is considered that this process cannot be carried further without loss of efficiency.

It is hoped to complete the 93 field sheets, which will cover the whole of the 28,000 square miles of the Protectorate, by the middle of 1930.

Cadastral Branch.—The Survey of Freetown on a scale of 1/1,250 was completed in March, 1927. The survey of an area of about ten square miles in the vicinity of York was also undertaken urgently, and completed successfully, under very bad weather conditions. The extension of the Freetown survey towards Wilberforce, Murray Town, or Aberdeen is proceeding.

Lands Branch.—This branch carries out various duties in connection with Crown Lands, and land transactions to which the Government is a party.

Survey School.—Fourteen second-year pupils did 6 months in the field, mainly on detail survey and levelling, and rejoined the school for instruction in June. Ten first-year pupils received instruction throughout the year.

Straits Settlements, 1927.

Governor.—Sir Hugh Clifford, M.C.S., G.C.M.G., G.B.E.

Surveyor-General.—Mr. V. A. Lowinger.

Assistant Surveyor-General.—Mr. J. Dewar (who succeeded Major C. J. Perkins, I.S.O., in October).

Finance.—Expenditure exceeds that of 1926 by \$47,673, while revenue has increased by \$1,269. The cost of fitting out the new Singapore office is included in the figure for total expenditure, i.e., \$508,648.

Map Production.—The new maps published during the year have made a very wide selection now available to the public.

Progress of Revenue Surveys.—Arrears are still considerable owing to the increased numbers of surveys requisitioned, especially in Singapore, despite overtime work.

Shortage of Staff.—The shortage in the subordinate ranks has been accentuated by resignations to go to private firms, the saturation point of which, however, must eventually be reached.

Meteorology.—Notes on the meteorological situation affecting the Straits Settlements appear under the report of the Federated Malay States.

Training.—Recruiting and training proceed as energetically as possible.

The policy of maintaining a very high standard of work is continued and only fully trained subordinates are employed.

General.—The newly created post of Senior Superintendent, Singapore, was filled by Mr. F. B. Sewell.

Trinidad and Tobago, 1927.

Governor.—Sir Horace Byatt, K.C.M.G.

Crown Surveyor.—Mr. J. W. Macgillivray, F.S.I.

The staff consisted of 4 assistant surveyors, 6 draughtsmen, and 1 clerk. Expenditure amounted to £7,768.

Topographical.—Two and a-half square miles were re-surveyed in the Piparo district in order to correct the contours and topographical detail.

Triangulation.—Thirty new minor trigonometrical stations were established in the County of St. Patrick for the control of surveys now made in connection with the new cadastral sheets. Thirty-seven stations were occupied and observed at. In one small triangle the error of closure was 13.68 seconds, but the average was, however, 5.44 seconds.

Cadastral Field Work.—407 village lots and 284 parcels of 20 acres or less were surveyed for petitioners.

Twenty-three Survey Orders were issued, containing in the aggregate about 7,500 acres to be included in the mining lease to the Trinidad Petroleum Development Company, Limited. Eight of these were completed.

Re-surveys, Surveys of Reserves, &c.—The total length of boundary lines run under this heading was 2,469 chains or 30.9 miles.

Controlling Surveys.—3,811 chains or 47.6 miles of traverse surveys connected to the triangulation were run along roads, boundaries, and rivers to provide the framework on which the surveys of the alienated lands are to be based. The average closing error in the primary class was 1 in 7,519.

Office Work.—Nine new improved copies of sectional sheets were prepared with ferro-gallic copies of each for the use of the Wardens.

972 grant, 165 lease, and 894 survey plans were made in connection with petitions and other land transactions.

The number of plans checked and certified by the Crown Surveyor amounted to 565.

Solar observations for time were taken once a week in order to determine the rate of the Standard Clock kept in this office, from which the correct time of the Colony is obtained.

General.—The year under review was one of the wettest on record and the field work of the Department was executed under very adverse conditions.

Uganda, 1927.

Governor.—Sir W. F. Gowers, K.C.M.G.

Director of Surveys, Land Officer and Commissioner of Mines.—Mr. Dyson Blair.

Deputy Director of Surveys.—Mr. H. B. Thomas.

Staff.—The staff of the Lands and Survey Department included 17 surveyors, 4 draughtsmen, and a computer.

Expenditure and Revenue.—The annual cost of the Department was about £26,000, of which four-fifths was covered by personal emoluments. The actual receipts from revenue collected by the Department amounted to £44,500—greatly exceeding the estimate. Of this amount nearly one-fifth was brought in by fees and sales of maps.

Triangulation and Main Traverse.—Triangulation is being actively pursued, present effort being mainly concentrated on a North Meridional Chain, where, however, a bottle-neck at Lira has caused some misgivings. Ten stations were completed in spite of unusually prolonged haze and difficult country. Minor triangulation was observed near Mjanji for topographical control. Of ruling traverse 94 miles were measured.

Topography.—In the Eastern Province the sheets A.36, V and W, of the quarter-inch series are in progress, contours being fixed at 100 feet V.I. The total cost of field work on 277 square miles worked out at 30s. a square mile.

Cadastral Survey.—In Buganda nearly 450 square miles were covered at an inclusive field cost of £8 12s. 0d. per square mile. This involved 1,260 miles of boundaries and tielines, costing £3 10s. 0d. per mile, inclusive of all contributory charges except pensions. Of the 16,800 square miles in Buganda, 58 per cent. of this Mailo Survey has been finished since 1904, at the average rate of 430 square miles per annum. In Toro, 88 per cent. of the area of 376 square miles covered by the Toro Agreement of 1900 has been completed. Here the component areas are not contiguous, so that the inclusive field cost of the work amounted to £24 per square mile, while the boundaries and ties showed a cost rate of £5 7s. 0d. per mile run, included in the square mileage cost aforesaid.

Computations.—Since the whole internal survey of the Protectorate is based on the Clarke 1858 figure, the Arc of Meridian—calculated throughout the Southern Continent on the Clarke 1880 figure—was recomputed on the 1858 figure. The Department is now faced with the question of adjusting its chains of triangulation and is making a proper study of the closures. The trigonometrical measures of altitude are showing fairly good results, such as an average error of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch per mile. The 94 miles of traverse from Mjanji to Bugondo were adjusted to the trigonometrical controls; it would be interesting to compare the closures of these ruling traverses with those in the Federated Malay States and Gold Coast.

Mapping.—A new map of the Western Province, at the scale 2/M, was sent to England for reproduction. A new map of the whole Protectorate on this scale will now be undertaken; further, the map will also be reproduced on the scale of 1/M, to meet growing needs.

Land Office and Mines.—The work here involves official conveyancing, registration and issue of prospecting licenses. Tin has been discovered and the first shipment of cassiterite was made in this year.

ANNEX.

The following is an analysis by the Colonial Survey Committee of the Report of the Survey Department of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan for the year 1928 :—

Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, 1928.

Governor-General.—Sir John Maffey, K.C.V.O., C.S.I., C.I.E.

Director of Surveys.—Colonel S. L. Milligan, C.M.G., D.S.O.

1. *General.*—No important new work was initiated, but good progress was made with various surveys already in hand at the beginning of the year. The Director of Surveys reports a lack of technical skill and supervising power amongst the Native Province Surveyors, which has thrown a good deal of extra instrumental and other work on to the British Inspectors of Surveys. It is hoped to remedy this by special courses of instruction (*vide* paragraph 5).

2. *Triangulation.*—No primary work has been done. The Mongalla Province minor triangulations were continued and two areas together approximating 3,800 square miles were covered. These areas are :—

(a) Torit to Taposa.

(b) Nimule to Tereteina, along the Sudan-Uganda frontier.

It is hoped to link up (b) with the Uganda Triangulation Survey Party's work in 1929.

3. *Topographical.*—(a) Information appearing on topographical sheets is obtained largely from outside sources, such as administrative officials and travellers. The most important additions to topographical knowledge of the country in 1928 are provided by the journey of Messrs. Newbold and Shaw in the South Libyan Desert.

(b) *Aerial Surveys.*—A few experimental photographs of cultivated and forest areas were taken with a view to expediting the work of the forestry and agricultural departments. There must be a ground party for cadastral surveys, to point out to the landowner his boundaries, and as yet, aerial survey shows no saving in this direction. For the general topographical map (1/250,000) the ground party necessary for control can map topographical features in sufficient detail, and again aerial survey effects no economy. The work in the Sudd region which is being carried out by the Egyptian Government, however, is expected to provide additional information as to the value of aerial survey for special purposes.

(c) *Production of Topographical Maps.*—

1/250,000.—Fourteen new sheets were produced and fourteen new editions of old sheets published.

1/1 M.—Two sheets were completed and published.

1/2 M.—Correction tracings for Sudan, Abyssinia, and Kenya sheets were sent to the G.S.G.S. The Sudan portion of the Bahr-el-Ghazal sheet was recompiled, redrawn, and sent to the G.S.G.S. for incorporation in the new edition of that sheet.

1/3 M.—Corrections were sent to England.

In addition to the above, 47 special drawings were made.

4. *Cadastral Survey*.—

1/20,000.—56 sheets of the contoured map of Gezira were produced.

1/50,000.—13 sheets were reduced from the 1/20,000 and redrawn for publication.

1/100,000.—2 sheets were published.

Much miscellaneous land survey work has been done, mainly for the Departments of Lands, Agriculture, and Irrigation. Amongst many town surveys, the survey of Omdurman is nearing completion and the revision of Khartoum is to be undertaken shortly.

5. *Survey School*.—A scheme for a series of post-graduate courses for Gordon College graduates and other junior members of the Department has been submitted. A Summer School of Instruction was instituted and was attended voluntarily by 29 officials. Twenty-five candidates out of forty-two passed the Efficiency Bar Examinations, whilst nine passed the Senior and fourteen the Junior Examinations.

6. *Printing and Mapping Section*.—During the year 13,492 sheets of value £1,823 were issued ; 175 plates were prepared for printing, making a complete stock of 788 plates.

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[Cmd. 2387.] 3s. 6d. (3s. 9d.).

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FIJI.

REPORT FOR 1928.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFATORY NOTE:—	
GEOGRAPHICAL	3
HISTORICAL	4
CONSTITUTION	6
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION	7
LANGUAGES	7
CURRENCY	8
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	8
I. GENERAL	8
II. FINANCE	15
III. PRODUCTION	17
IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS	25
V. COMMUNICATIONS	28
VI. JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS	30
VII. PUBLIC WORKS	36
VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH	39
IX. EDUCATION	40
X. LANDS AND SURVEY	42
XI. LABOUR... ..	45
XII. NATIVE AFFAIRS	50
XIII. INDIAN AFFAIRS	57
XIV. METEOROLOGICAL	62
XV. MISCELLANEOUS	66
MAP.	

FIJI.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

PREFATORY NOTE.

GEOGRAPHICAL.

The Colony of Fiji is situated in the Southern Pacific Ocean and lies between latitude 15° and 22° south, and between longitude 177° west and 175° east.

The Fijian Group is comprised of about 250 islands of varying sizes from the island of Vitilevu, which covers 4,053 square miles, to mere rocks measuring a few yards in circumference. About 80 islands are inhabited. Other large islands besides Vitilevu are Vanualevu (2,128 square miles), Taveuni (166 square miles), and Kadavu (165 square miles). The total area of the Colony (including the islands of Rotuma) is 7,083 square miles, or nearly the size of Wales. Suva, the capital, is situated on the island of Vitilevu, and is distant 1,743 miles from Sydney, New South Wales, and 1,140 miles from Auckland, New Zealand.

The islands of Rotuma lie between 12° and 15° south and 175° and 180° east, and are a dependency of Fiji.

The largest island, Vitilevu, measures about 96 miles from east to west, and about 63 miles from north to south, while the island of Vanualevu, situated north-east of Vitilevu, is 114 miles in length and averages in breadth some 26 miles. Other islands of economic importance are Taveuni, Kadavu, and the smaller islands of Rabi and the Yasawa, Lomaiviti, and Lau Groups.

The islands of Fiji owe their origin in part to volcanic upheaval. There are, however, no active volcanoes in the Colony, but several of the high mountains, as for instance, Nabukelevu, on Kadavu, and the summit of the island of Taveuni were formidable craters in past times. In several places throughout the islands there are hot springs, the best known being situated at Savusavu on the island of Vanualevu, on the Waidina river, north of Suva, and on several of the islands of the Lomaiviti Group.

The highest altitude reached in Fiji is that of Mount Victoria, which rises to a height of 4,550 feet and is situated at the north-eastern extremity of the main mountain system of Vitilevu. Other mountains worthy of mention on the same island are Mount Pickering (3,550 feet), Muanivatu (4,000 feet), Mount Evans (4,020 feet), and Korobasabasaga (3,960 feet). The highest peak on Vanualevu rises to 3,437 feet and on Taveuni to 4,040 feet.

Most of the islands of the Colony are practically surrounded by coral reefs between which and the shore there is thus a well-protected waterway.

HISTORICAL.

Abel Jansen Tasman, a Dutch navigator, is generally credited with the discovery of the Fiji Islands in the year 1643. There is no doubt that he did come unexpectedly upon a few islands in the northern part of the Group; but there are very strong reasons for believing that one or more of the old Spanish navigators were here before him. The actual discovery is at present under consideration by research students, and until their investigations are complete the matter must be left in a state of uncertainty. Tasman's experiences among the reefs in the north of the Archipelago were so unhappy that, after the publication of his journal, navigators appear to have avoided the Group for over 130 years. Captain Cook made a survey of the island of Vatoa and the neighbouring waters in 1774. Bligh and Captain Wilson made important discoveries at a later time, and D'Urville made a fairly comprehensive though somewhat inaccurate chart of the islands and a few of the harbours of the Archipelago in his two voyages in 1827 and 1838. Commander Wilkes, who was in charge of the United States Exploring Expedition which visited the Group in 1840, completed a more reliable chart of its islands, reefs, and harbours and published the results of his investigations a few years later. But, of necessity, there were many hidden dangers in those coral strewn waters which could only be revealed later by men-of-war visiting the islands for survey purposes, and by traders plying between ports in different islands of the Group. The latest discovery of a hidden shoal was made by H.M.S. *Laburnum* in September, 1928.

Towards the close of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth Fiji began to be visited by vessels from the East Indies, which came in search of sandalwood and bêche-de-mer for the Chinese market.

The inhabitants at that time, and indeed for many years afterwards, were regarded as ferocious savages, and in dealing with them traders had to exercise great caution. Several of the crews of these vessels, however, took up their residence on shore, and they may be regarded as having been the first white immigrants.

About the year 1808 there was wrecked on the reef off the island of Nairai the American brig *Eliza*, with 40,000 dollars from the River Plate. The greater part of the crew escaped, but two of them took passage in native canoes which happened at the time to be in the vicinity of the wreck. One landed at Bau and the other at Verata. The former, a Swede named Charles Savage, acquired great ascendancy in the kingdom of Bau, where he taught the natives the use of fire-arms, thus affording them a considerable advantage in intertribal warfare. Other foreigners, for a similar reason, soon acquired a welcome in the several states which were then struggling for supremacy. An Irishman named Conner attained in Rewa a

similar position to that of Savage in Bau. Savage died in March, 1814, near the island of Vanualevu, where he carried on a war with the natives for the purpose of procuring a cargo of sandalwood for an English trading vessel, the *Hunter*, of Calcutta. Together with some of his crew he was killed and eaten, his bones being converted into needles and distributed amongst the people as a memento of victory. Conner's fate was less tragic. He paid less heed to the affairs of state, and even when, after the death of his royal patron, misfortune overtook him he was able to resort to the proverbial humour of his race and preserve to some extent the goodwill of the Rewa natives by the narration of tales for their amusement. It was upon this faculty that he depended for a livelihood rather than upon the rearing of pigs and fowls for barter with the people.

The first missionaries to arrive in Fiji came from Tonga in October, 1835. They commenced their labours, at a time when the political state of Fiji was unknown, at Lakeba in the Lau or Eastern Group, which was a vassal state, and by their attention to these lesser people they provoked the jealousy of the Chiefs of the sovereign state of Cakaudrove, who lived in Somosomo. Later, when at the last-named village the work of Christianisation began, the Chiefs continued to oppose the spread of the new doctrine by all means in their power. Similarly, when the missionaries established themselves at Rewa, and at Viwa, which lies close to Bau, they experienced the same opposition. The whole influence of the Bauans was exercised against the work of the mission, and it has been suggested that many atrocities were committed at Bau to prove to the missionaries operating from Viwa how little Bau was influenced by the religious change proceeding in other parts of the Group. Finally, in 1854, King Cakobau adopted Christianity, and heathenism was conquered. Cannibalism among his people had been one of their institutions; it was interwoven in the elements of society and it was defeated only after long and hazardous missionary effort.

In 1858 the United States corvette *Vandalia* arrived in Levuka, and the Commander, Captain Sinclair, preferred claims against Cakobau, as King of Fiji, amounting to 45,000 dollars. Cakobau induced Captain Sinclair to allow him 12 months in which to meet the demand. Interviews in respect of these claims between Cakobau and the British Consul led to an offer of the cession of the islands to Great Britain, on the condition that the American claims were paid by the British Government, for which payment, as a direct equivalent, certain land, "if required" was to be granted in fee simple, besides the general sovereignty of the whole Group. Subsequently, on the 14th December, 1859, the chiefs of Fiji "Acknowledged, ratified and renewed the Cession of Fiji to Great Britain made on the 12th of October, 1858." The offer was declined by Her Britannic Majesty's Government in 1862.

About this time the demand for cotton, arising from the American Civil War, led to an influx of Europeans into Fiji for the purpose of cotton cultivation, and in June, 1871, the settlers endeavoured to establish a settled form of government with the principal Bauan Chief, Cakobau, as King of Fiji. A constitution was agreed upon and a parliament was elected, but it was not long before the parliament and the Government drifted into mutual hostility, and latterly the Ministry governed without the aid of a parliament.

In both Australia and England the annexation of Fiji had been urged since 1869, and in August, 1873, the Earl of Kimberley commissioned Commodore Goodenough, commanding the squadron on the Australian Station, and Mr. E. L. Layard, then Her Majesty's Consul in Fiji, to investigate and report on the matter. The Commissioners, on the 21st of March, 1874, reported on the offer of the sovereignty of the islands from the chiefs, with the assent of the Europeans, but on certain terms which were not acceptable, and Sir Hercules Robinson, then Governor of New South Wales, was despatched to Fiji in September, 1874, to negotiate.

The Mission was completely successful, and the sovereignty of the islands was ceded to the Crown by Cakobau, the Chief of Bau, Maafu, who was the Chief of the Lau Confederacy, and the other principal chiefs, in a Deed of Cession, dated the 10th of October, 1874. A Charter was shortly afterwards issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria creating the islands a separate Colony and providing for their government as a Crown Colony.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is regulated by Letters Patent of the 31st of January, 1914, as amended by Letters Patent of the 20th of July, 1916. The question of further amendment is under consideration.*

The Governor is advised by an Executive Council, which at present consists of the Colonial Secretary and the Attorney-General as ex-officio members, three other official members, and two nominated unofficial members. The Legislative Council, as constituted by the Letters Patent, consists of the Governor, not more than twelve nominated members (of whom eleven must be persons holding public offices in the Colony), seven elected members, and two native members.

The Secretary of State has intimated his decision to advise His Majesty the King to amend the Letters Patent, to provide for the election of three representatives of the Indian community; for Fijian representation by nomination to be similarly increased to three; for the number of the European elected members to be reduced from seven to six; and for the number of official members to be increased so as to preserve the official majority.*

* New Letters Patent were issued on the 9th February, 1929, and came into force on the 1st May, 1929.

The English Common Law and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England in the year 1875, when the Colony obtained a local legislature, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and are subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Certain other later Acts of the Imperial Parliament have been applied to the Colony by local Ordinances.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Under the Municipal Institutions Ordinance of 1909 the administration of the towns of Suva and Levuka is in the hands of Municipal Councils elected by the ratepayers. The Municipal Councils have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, building construction, and the control of places and streets within the towns. Their revenues are mainly derived from Government grants, licences, and rates. The Central Board of Health, which is composed of official and unofficial members appointed by the Governor, administers the Public Health Ordinance of 1911 and is empowered to make regulations in regard to the carrying out of the Ordinance. The Colony is divided into urban and rural sanitary districts, in which local authorities, subject to the control of the Central Board of Health, administer the Public Health Ordinance in their respective districts.

The Board of Education, appointed by the Governor, directs the policy in regard to education and is authorised to pass by-laws on all matters pertaining to education within the Colony.

The Central Road Board, composed of official and unofficial members, is responsible for the maintenance of existing roads and for new construction, and is assisted by Local Road Boards appointed in each district.

Ordinance No. 4 of 1923 provides for a Fire Brigade service for the town of Suva. There is a suitable station and up-to-date plant, including a Dennis turbine motor engine of recent pattern.

The control of the Fire Brigade is vested in a Board of Fire Commissioners.

LANGUAGES.

English is spoken by the 4,500 Europeans resident in the Colony. The estimated Fijian population is 90,000. Many native dialects are spoken, but the majority of Fijian male adults and a large proportion of the women are also acquainted with the Bauan dialect, which has been adopted as the official Fijian language. In Rotuma, a dependency of Fiji, with a population of over 2,000, an entirely different language is spoken, which contains words found in the languages of all the adjacent island groups including Japanese. Among the Indians, who number 70,000, a form of Hindustani which pays little attention to grammar is most generally used,

although Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam, and Canarese languages or dialects are also spoken by former immigrants from the Madras Province and their families. Hindustani is spoken by the majority of these as a second language, and it is probable that in course of time a form of Hindustani will become the common language of the Indian community in Fiji. The Chinese population of over 1,000 speaks Cantonese.

CURRENCY.

The only coin in circulation in the Colony is British sterling which with the Government currency notes issue is the legal tender of the Colony.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

British weights and measures are standard in the Colony.

I.—GENERAL.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., returned from leave on the 14th April, 1928, and resumed the Administration from that date. During his absence Mr. A. W. Seymour, V.D., acted as Governor.

Several important changes of personnel took place in 1928. Mr. P. A. McElwaine, B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., was appointed Attorney-General and arrived in the Colony from Kenya in January; Mr. P. F. Boyd, formerly of Northern Rhodesia, was appointed Colonial Postmaster and arrived in the Colony in March.

Mr. I. McOwan represented Fiji at the Empire Forestry Conference held at Canberra in June. Dr. J. D. Tothill, Superintendent of Agriculture, and all the Entomologists of the Agricultural Department were absent from the Colony during part of the year engaged in special researches.

On his return to the Colony in April His Excellency the Governor entered into occupation of the new Government House. The new building, which is of reinforced concrete, replaces the wooden structure which was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire in 1921.

The event of the year which perhaps created the greatest interest and even excitement among all races in the Colony was the landing in Albert Park, Suva, of Captain Kingsford Smith in his triple-engined Fokker airplane, the "Southern Cross." The machine arrived in Suva from Honolulu on the conclusion of the second of the three stages of its Trans-Pacific flight on 5th June, and left on 8th June from Naselei Beach, some miles east of Suva, on the final stage of the flight to Brisbane.

Visitors to the Colony during the year included Sir Dudley R. S. de Chair, K.C.B., Governor of New South Wales, and also Major R. D. Furse, D.S.O., of the Colonial Office staff and Mr. R. L. Robinson, O.B.E., Forestry Commission, *en route* to the Imperial Forestry Conference held at Canberra.

Prince Takamatsu, brother of the Emperor of Japan, visited the Colony in August, as an officer of H.I.J.M.S. *Yakumo*, a unit of the Japanese Training Squadron which made a three days' stay in the port of Suva during that month.

Sir Maui Pomare, Minister of Health for New Zealand, and Minister for the Cook Islands, visited the Group in connection with a proposed arrangement now completed under which the leper settlement at Makogai receives patients from New Zealand and the majority of the Administrations of the Western Pacific.

Sessions of the Legislative Council were held on the 21st February, the 1st June, the 24th August, and the 9th November. A list of the more important Ordinances passed will be found under Heading XV.

New Native Regulations came into force on the 5th September. Reference is made to these elsewhere in the Report under the headings "Justice" and "Native Affairs."

The Municipal Franchise Committee was appointed in 1927 with the main object of making recommendations as to the extension or otherwise of the voting privileges possessed by Indian ratepayers in the towns of Suva and Levuka in regard to the election of members of the Municipal Councils. A Majority Report was issued in December of that year, a Minority Report signed by the Indian members of the Committee in January, 1928, and a separate Minority Report in February by the Secretary for Indian Affairs. As the Minority Report of the Indian members contained certain allegations and statements of grievances of Indians, His Honour the Chief Justice of the Colony, Sir A. K. Young, K.C., was appointed a Special Commissioner to enquire into the truth of the allegations.

The trade of the Colony during 1928 was satisfactory and shows an increase both in respect of imports and exports over that of 1927. The value of exports exceeded the value of imports by over one million pounds sterling, and the value of exports during 1928 exceeded the value of the 1927 exports by over £700,000.

The sugar export figures are remarkable, as a result of the very good crop of 1927. The 1928 crop was not so large but of greater sugar content and a heavy yield of sugar is anticipated. Crushing in 1928 was continued until 14th December. The tendency, remarked upon in last year's report, for exports of sugar to go to Canada rather than to New Zealand, is more pronounced, the figures for 1928 being :—to Canada 65.86 per cent., to New Zealand 23.02 per cent., and to Great Britain 10.25 per cent.

The year 1928 was the most prosperous in the history of the Colony. For the third time the total trade exceeded four million pounds, and the revenue far exceeded that of any previous year. It is important to note that the trade for the year 1928 resulted in a far wider and better distribution of income than did the trade of the years 1920 and 1921, the two previous years in which the total trade of the Colony exceeded four million pounds. During the years 1923-28, while there have been fluctuations, progress has been steadily in an upward direction in respect of most of the main exports of the Colony, and it is to the cumulative effect of this progress that the improvement in the Colony's financial position (dealt with under Section II—Finance) is to be attributed. The financial policy of the Government during the last seven years has been directed to paying off a deficit of a quarter of a million pounds, which had accumulated during the post-war slump ; to establishing reserves wherewith to meet emergencies (such as a serious hurricane) should they occur ; and to building up and expanding Public Services. These objects were achieved by the end of the year 1928, and the Colony can now face the future with every confidence.

Agriculture, dealt with in greater detail in this report under its appropriate head, continues to be economically the backbone of the Colony. Sugar-cane is the leading crop, after which come, in order of value, coconuts and bananas, dairying and cattle breeding. Cotton, pine-apples, maize, and rice, the two last named for local consumption, are also of some importance. Sugar, copra, and bananas have been produced for many years, but cotton growing is a recent revival. Pine-apple canning and dairying are innovations, dating approximately from 1918, when sugar production passed through a critical period and the Colony was faced with the possibility of having to diversify its agricultural products on short notice. A meat-canning factory commenced operations early in the year. There is a considerable demand for canned meat both within the Colony and throughout the Islands of the Western Pacific, and there are possibilities of considerable development in this infant industry.

In last year's Report the following reference was made to the campaign to control the purple moth *Levuana iridescens* :—

“ The campaign to control the coconut pest, the purple moth *Levuana iridescens*, appears to have met with complete success, and confidence has been restored among planters, bankers, and business firms generally interested in the copra industry. Owing to the introduction of parasites from the Federated Malay States and Java the moth outbreaks have disappeared almost entirely. The final position will not be known for at least another year, but it is now probable that sufficient parasites have been introduced to effect a permanent control of the pest.

In view of the fact that, apart from cane areas, Vanualevu, Taveuni, and the Lau Group depend primarily upon copra, the results of this campaign are of outstanding importance to all the copra planters and to a large proportion of the native race. A completely successful issue to the campaign will not only permit coconuts to be grown on the largest island, Vitilevu, but will also remove the threat of possible disaster to many islands in the South Pacific, the inhabitants of which depend to a large extent upon the coconut for an existence."

It is now possible to say that the campaign has met with complete success and that the insect is no longer a serious pest of coconut trees. The services of the Entomologists of the Agricultural Department have consequently been utilized mainly for the campaign which aims at controlling by biological means the coconut scale *Aspidiotus destructor*. The more important insects that feed upon this scale have been imported through the efforts of the Coconut Committee, from Java and from the West Indies. Of the insects imported, the Coccinellid Beetle (*Cryptogonatha nodiceps*) stands out as being likely to bring about an economic control of the scale. During the year this insect has been bred at Levuka and has been distributed widely throughout the scale-infested parts of the Colony. At those places at which it was first liberated, it has now increased very rapidly and has, in all cases, brought about a local control. There are now reasons for hoping that this local control may gradually extend throughout all those parts of the Colony in which the scale occurs. In view of the fact that this scale insect was responsible for reducing considerably the output of copra from the southern coast of Vanualevu and from certain islands including Wakaya, Koro, and Gau, it is satisfactory to be able to record that substantial progress towards control appears to have been achieved.

The increase in the tourist traffic was maintained. The following figures show the steady increase of the number of passengers arriving from overseas at all Fiji ports :—

1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
2,437	3,722	3,980	4,455

Deducting 20 per cent. for Fiji residents returning from overseas, a total of approximately 3,564 appears as the number of visitors to the Colony during the year, an increase of some 1,610 on the figure for 1925.

The growth of the tourist traffic is due mainly to improved facilities for travelling to the islands, to the advertising which the Colony received at the Wembley and Dunedin Exhibitions, to the provision of increased facilities for sport in Suva, and to the issue of advertising matter by the shipping companies and the local Tourist Bureau.

The Fourth Annual Fiji Agricultural, Pastoral, Horticultural, and Industrial Show, held in October, 1928, conducted under the auspices of the Fiji Show Association, eclipsed all previous efforts. The entries totalled 1,794, an increase on the previous year of 210 and nearly 800 more than the first Show in 1925. The financial results were satisfactory and a reserve fund of over £400 has placed the Fiji Show Association in a sound position. In connection with the Health Exhibit, inaugurated by the Health Department, a Baby Show was held on the second day. This was a new feature and proved to be a successful and popular event.

Great interest was shown in the Live Stock Section and it is claimed that the Annual Show is, to a considerable extent, responsible for the marked improvement noticeable in recent years in the class of horses and cattle found in the Colony, many pedigree animals having been imported into Fiji during the past four years. The Show was open for two days and the number of visitors exceeded 5,000. The quality of the exhibits all round marked a yet further advance on that of previous Shows and is very encouraging for the future.

The estimated population of Fiji and Rotuma combined on the 31st December, 1928, was 176,793. Of this number 91,028 were Fijians and 70,996 were Indians, comprising 51.50 per cent. and 40.15 per cent. respectively of the total population. The remaining 8.35 per cent. was made up of 4,591 Europeans, 2,260 Rotumans, 2,230 other Polynesians, 3,194 Half-castes, 1,352 Chinese, and 1,142 others.

These figures compared with the 1921 Census Returns show that the population has increased during the last seven years by 19,527, an aggregate rate of increase of 12.41 per cent. The following is a table analysing the estimated increase of population since the last Census taken in 1921 :—

<i>Class of Population.</i>				1921 <i>Census.</i>	<i>Estimated</i> 31.12.28.	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Europeans	...	...	...	3,878	4,591	713	18.38
Half-castes	...	...	...	2,781	3,194	413	14.85
Fijians	...	...	...	84,475	91,028	6,553	7.75
Polynesians	...	...	...	1,564	2,230	666	42.58
Indians	...	...	...	60,634	70,996	10,362	17.09
Rotumans	...	...	...	2,235	2,260	25	1.12
Chinese	...	...	...	910	1,352	442	48.57
Others	...	...	...	789	1,142	353	44.74
				157,266	176,793	19,527	12.41

The population of Native Rotumans, although showing a slight increase, may be said to be stationary. These interesting Polynesian people live in a small self-contained group of islands, some 220 miles north-north-west of Fiji. The sex constitution of their population shows a more satisfactory balance than that existing in Fiji, and

the numbers of the population have varied little during the last fifty years. The estimated number of Rotumans on 31st December, 1928, shows that the total decrease since the date on which the first Census was taken (1881) amounts to 192. Rotuma lies well outside the established trade routes and consequently its population is not appreciably affected by migration.

The distribution of the population on the 31st December, 1928, was Fiji, 174,391; Rotuma, 2,402. There were 23.50 persons to the square mile in Fiji and 171.57 persons to the square mile in Rotuma. The average birth-rate per thousand of the total population for the year 1928 was 33.05, and the average death-rate per thousand of the total population for the year 1928 was 18.65. The following table shows the average birth- and death-rates per thousand for the years 1924 to 1928;—

Class of population.	Birth-rate per 1,000.					Death-rate per 1,000.				
	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Europeans ...	33.81	16.68	18.16	24.78	17.42	10.44	9.08	9.32	9.60	7.62
Half-castes ...	24.06	29.65	31.91	23.08	32.56	4.40	7.33	12.69	7.37	9.39
Fijians ...	34.42	32.29	33.95	32.53	33.36	22.70	22.75	23.09	22.98	24.95
Indians ...	34.32	33.14	32.65	27.72	34.0	5.80	7.25	8.26	9.42	10.80
Rotumans ...	44.49	56.97	48.95	50.47	52.21	42.20	64.38	28.29	36.29	51.77

The following table shows the number of marriages registered during the last five years:—

Class of Population.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Europeans ...	24	28	38	34	47
Half-castes...	33	22	14	16	41
Fijians ...	701	857	708	760	906
Indians ...	182	174	195	254	276
Rotumans ...	39	23	37	28	11

An interesting comparison of the population at the Census of 24th April, 1921, and of the estimated population at the end of 1928 is appended.

RETURN OF THE POPULATION, and of the MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, and DEATHS.

Class of Population.	Area in square miles.		Whites.		Coloured Population.		Total.		Population to the Square Mile.	Persons employed in		Births Number and Rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths Number and Rate per 1,000.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Agri- culture.	Manufac- tures and Industrial, Commercial.			
Europeans { Fiji ...	7,421	2,274	1,574	—	—	—	3,878	—	0.52	412	379	1,905	—	—
Rotuma { Fiji ...	14	23	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Half-castes { Fiji ...	—	—	—	1,425	29	1,304	2,781	—	0.37	144	395	583	—	—
Rotuma { Fiji ...	—	—	—	44,022	40,453	23	84,475	—	11.37	2,285*	845*	253*	—	—
Fijians ...	—	—	—	37,015	23,619	23	60,634	—	8.17	19,433	3,179	1,244	—	—
Indians ...	—	—	—	1,271	283	—	1,554	—	0.21	335	501	—	—	—
Polynesians ...	—	—	—	1,129	1,106	—	2,235	—	0.30	—	—	—	—	—
Rotumans ...	—	—	—	845	65	—	910	—	0.12	129	92	399	—	—
Chinese ...	—	—	—	431	358	—	789	—	0.10	—	9	6	—	—
Others ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	7,435	2,297	1,581	86,167	67,221	157,266	—	—	21.16	22,738	5,400	4,380	—	—

Return of Population as ascertained at the Census of 24th April, 1921.

Estimated Population at 31st December, 1928.

Europeans { Fiji ... Rotuma { Fiji ... Rotuma { Fiji ... Polynesians ... Indians ... Rotumans (Rotuma) ... Chinese ... Others ... { Fiji ... Rotuma {	2,488 11	2,081 11	— — 1,642 23 46,925 1,754 42,582 1,100 1,258 684 60	— — 1,516 13 44,103 476 28,414 1,160 94 374 24	4,569 22 3,158 36 91,028 2,230 70,996 2,260 1,352 1,058 84	{ Nil Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do.	.62 — .43 12.24 — 9.55 161.43 — .18 — .15	— — — — — — — — — — —	— — — — — — — — — — —	Number. 80—17.42 104—32.56 3,037—33.36 62—27.80 2,414—34.00 118—52.21 18—13.31 10—8.75	Rate. 47 41 906 14 276 11 — 9	Number. Rate 35—7.62 30—9.39 2,272—24.95 68—30.49 767—10.80 117—51.77 7—5.17 2—1.75

* Figures relate to Fijians living in Magisterial Districts apart from Native Villages.

II.—FINANCE.

The progress of the Colony in the realm of finance is shown by the following figures :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Assets.</i>	<i>Liabilities.</i>	<i>Excess of Liabilities over Assets.</i>	<i>Excess of Assets over Liabilities.</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1924 ...	488,907	451,257	641,067	796,582	155,515	—
1925 ...	550,236	478,174	668,104	751,557	83,453	—
1926 ...	584,515	536,079	750,010	785,027	35,017	—
1927 ...	586,574	534,939	898,491	881,752	—	16,739
1928 ...	709,534	567,845	597,903	439,475	—	158,428

At the close of the year 1922 the Colony had an accumulated deficit on Revenue Account of £243,481, and at the close of 1928 an accumulated surplus of £158,428. From this, it will be seen that during the years mentioned the very satisfactory improvement in the Colony's position of £401,909 was effected. These figures are, however, exclusive of the Immigration Fund, which at the end of the year 1922 stood at £74,282, and at the end of 1928 at £104,000—an improvement in this case of £29,718.

An item in the Colony's Balance Sheet which appears both as an asset and a liability is the before-mentioned Immigration Fund of £104,000. Except for the fact that this sum is earmarked for a specific purpose, it is a free asset, which, added to the shown surplus of assets over liabilities of £158,428, makes the Colony's available accumulated funds on Revenue Account £262,428.

During the year 1928 a windfall occurred, owing to the refund from Loan Account to Revenue of £33,000, but even deducting this, the total revenue for the year 1928 far exceeded that of any previous year. While the incidence of taxation has been considerably varied during the last seven or eight years, and placed upon a wider and more equitable basis, only a slight increase has been introduced, yet not only has the financial position been consolidated, and satisfactory reserves accumulated, but it has also been found possible largely to fortify and extend those Government services which must directly affect the welfare and prosperity of the Colony, and to combat and defeat a grave menace which, at one time, threatened one of the principal industries of the Colony.

The extremely satisfactory recovery of the Colony from the post-war depression is due, firstly to drastic retrenchment, secondly to revival of the main industries, and, thirdly, to the stimulation and introduction of young or new industries.

The currency in circulation consists of Government notes, and English coins of pre-war fineness. The position of the Currency

Note Guarantee Fund is satisfactory, as will be seen from the following :—

Liabilities :—

					£
Notes in circulation ...	...	...	...	...	431,583

Assets :—

Gold Reserve (sovereigns) ...	...	...	...	...	86,481
Securities (market price at 31st December, 1928) ...	...	...	...	...	371,198
Depreciation Fund Investments ...	...	...	...	...	30,476
					£488,155

Surplus on Values at 31st December, 1928, £56,572.

The transactions of the Currency Commissioners for 1928 produced a net surplus of £12,865, as follows :—

				£	£
Interest on Securities ...	...	...	...	...	17,478
Expenses ...	...	...	...	901	
Statutory Provision for Depreciation Fund ...	...	...	...	3,712	
					4,613
Surplus ...	...	...	...		
					£12,865

The position of the Loan Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, was as under :—

					£
Public Works Loan ...	...	...	...	...	74,700
Consolidated and Funding Loan ...	...	...	...	...	765,000
Total ...					£839,700

Early in January, 1929, however, the Public Works Loan was redeemed, leaving the public debt of the Colony at £765,000. This loan of £765,000 was raised in London during the year 1928, the stock bearing interest at 5 per cent., and being issued at 101. Within five minutes of the opening of the list no less than £7,727,100 was tendered. The terms of this issue and the response thereto are matters upon which the Colony may well be congratulated, showing as they do that in the London money market the financial position of Fiji is regarded as unusually sound.

A further loan of £170,000 has been arranged for. This will be in the form of a direct loan, which the Crown Agents for the Colonies have agreed to provide.

Banks and Banking Facilities.

Two private banks are operating in the Colony—the Bank of New South Wales, with three establishments, and the Bank of New Zealand, with two. The paid-up capital of the former is £7,500,000, while that of the latter is £6,771,198. The amount of deposits held by the Bank of New South Wales is £1,200,580 and by the Bank of New Zealand £373,861.

In addition, there is a Government Savings Bank, in which, during the year under review, the number of accounts increased from 5,986 to 6,918 while the amount of deposits made during the year increased from £141,686 to £158,202. The total amount of deposits at the end of the year was £16,516 in excess of the amount on deposit at 31st December, 1927.

The amount at credit of depositors on 31st December, 1928, was £175,351 as against which were held :—

	£	£
Securities (market price on 31st December, 1928)	175,015	
Cash in hand	6,188	
		181,203
Surplus		£5,852

The transactions of the Savings Bank for the year 1928 were as follows :—

	£	£
Interest on Investment		7,434
Interest credited to Depositors	5,047	
Salaries	1,214	
Expenses	336	
Loss on change of investments 1924 written off	313	
		6,910
Surplus		£524

The rate of interest paid to depositors is 3½ per cent. up to £500, and 2½ per cent. on deposits exceeding £500 up to a maximum of £1,000.

III.—PRODUCTION.

There was a partial drought in 1928 which is likely to be reflected in a reduction of the total of the exports of cane sugar for 1929. In addition, the weather conditions during November and December, 1927, were not good for cotton planting, with the result that the cotton crop for 1928 is a very small one. Apart from these two features, however, the agricultural year for the Colony as a whole,

has been a good one, with the production of various commodities well up to the average and in some cases above the average.

Two local Pine-apple Companies have been established in the Colony following upon the joint experiment between Canadian Cannery Limited and the Government. This marks a turning point in the history of pine-apple canning in the Colony, and it is hoped that the industry now established in a small way will be permanent and that it will, in the course of time, assume considerable proportions.

The Fiji Development Company Limited commenced operating their new meat cannery at Tova and a good grade of beef is being produced. Initial difficulties appear to have been overcome and the locally produced article is not only gaining in popularity, but is attracting orders from Samoa and Tonga.

The three butter factories have operated successfully during the year, and there has been an increase in production at each factory.

Cane Sugar.

Cane sugar is the chief product exported and considerable interest has attached to this commodity since the industry was re-organised and a change-over effected from the system of indentured labour to one in which a large number of the estates are operated under the peasant tenant system. The latter system, inaugurated on a small scale, has now been considerably extended and appears to be meeting with substantial success. At one time doubts were expressed whether the Indian immigrants would take kindly to this system and it was feared that if the experiment proved a failure the labour position might become acute. It is satisfactory, therefore, to note that production in the last few years has been maintained and that in the last two years production has been substantially above the average.

The 1928 crop was exported to various countries as follows :—

							<i>Tons.</i>
Canada	...	...	...	...	...	...	79,485
New Zealand	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,781
United Kingdom	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,365
Elsewhere	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
							120,683

Exports of sugar for the last five years have been as follows :—

							<i>Cwt.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	889,440
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,834,880
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,139,820
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,455,060
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,413,660

In explanation of the very large crop of cane sugar exported in 1928 it should be stated that 840,000 cwt. represents the carry-over from the 1927 crop and that this is an unusually large amount to be carried over from one season to another prior to export.

Copra.

From a production point of view the year has been a good one and the amount of copra exported is the largest in the history of the Colony. From a price point of view the year has been unsatisfactory as prices for copra on the European markets have ruled consistently low.

Exports for the last five years have been :—

									<i>Tons.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,137
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,133
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,868
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26,560
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,391

Levuana Moth.—In 1916 the copra industry of the Colony was threatened with gradual extinction on account of the fact that the purple moth, *Levuana iridescens*, broke away from its traditional stronghold on the island of Vitilevu and became established on Ovalau and the adjoining islands. Extensive outbreaks of the insect followed, and with the moths present in millions and small cutters going constantly from the port of Levuka in Ovalau to the copra-producing islands of Lau, and to Taveuni and Vanualevu, it was felt that unless control could be brought about the moth would eventually find its way to the three areas last named. A campaign was initiated in 1925, and as a result of this campaign a parasitic *Tachnicia* fly was successfully introduced from the Federated Malay States where it was attacking the larvae of the *Astoria catoxantha*, a moth somewhat distantly related to *Levuana*. This fly was widely colonised during the end of 1925 and the early part of 1926. It became established very rapidly and by the middle of 1926 it has spread to all the areas within the Colony affected by the *Levuana* moth.

The campaign has proved to be completely successful and its results are now beginning to show in the export figures. The coconut palms on the island of Ovalau have now completely recovered and are again producing copra, and the trees scattered throughout the island of Vitilevu which, in the past, had produced little or no copra, are now, for the general part, in full bearing. On account of the success of the campaign, the natives on the island of Vitilevu, through the instrumentality of the Secretariat for Native Affairs and the Provincial Commissioners, have begun a vigorous planting-up campaign, the results of which are likely to be shown for the first time in the export figures ten years hence, when the more vigorous trees come into bearing.

Coconut Scale.—This insect *Aspidiotus destructor* is a comparatively new arrival in the Colony and appears to have done more damage

here than in any other place where it is known to occur, presumably for the reason that its natural enemies have, for the most part, not been present in this Colony. As the attacks of this insect caused a serious reduction in the output of copra on the islands which it had reached, a campaign was initiated to attempt to bring about a control by biological means. An Entomologist was sent to Java in 1927 and several small beetles, which feed upon this insect, were introduced. None of these, however, proved to be of great value in this Colony and an Entomologist was subsequently sent to the West Indies where a number of insects that feed upon this scale were known to occur. The more promising of these were eventually brought to Fiji and it is satisfactory to be able to report that at least one, the lady-bird of Coccinellid Beetle, named *Cryptogonatha nodiceps*, shows promise of being able to bring about the desired measure of control. It has now been established for over a year in several different localities and in each of those places has practically exterminated the scale in the neighbourhood of the original point of liberation. While it is too early to say what the final position will be, it is satisfactory to be able to record that satisfactory progress has been made in this campaign.

Bananas.

There has been little or no change in the industry during the past few years and shipments, with the exception of occasional small consignments to Australia of specially selected fruit graded under the supervision of a Government Inspector, have been confined to New Zealand, the only other near market and one where the demand for bananas is not much in excess of the present output of Fiji. The Australian market in a sense still remains closed to Fiji on account of the heavy import duty on fruit imposed by the Commonwealth Government in 1921. Shipments to New Zealand have declined slightly since 1926, due to the fact that a much better quality and grade of fruit for export to that country is now being insisted upon by the Fiji Government in order that a ready market for the product may be assured throughout the year.

Exports for the past five years have been :—

							Bunches.
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	447,641
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	566,475
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	560,080
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	547,472
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	530,610

Cotton.

The cotton industry has not yet emerged from the experimental stage. In 1928 production fell to 124 bales, one of the smallest crops on record since the industry was revived in 1923. This was due to the unfavourable weather in the planting months of November and December, 1927.

Until this year the variety grown has been exclusively Sea Island cotton. This was satisfactory in 1922 and 1923 on account of the

high prices that then prevailed for this type of cotton. Since that time, however, the price has steadily depreciated and it has been considered advisable to attempt to find a cotton that will have a ready sale at all times to replace Sea Island. At the Cotton Experiment Farm in the Sigatoka Valley a single seeded Kidney Cotton has been developed from original stock obtained in New Guinea. The advantages of this type of cotton are that there will be a ready sale for at least 5,000 bales, that the cost of picking is about half that for Sea Island, that the ginning percentage is approximately 35 per cent. as against 24 per cent., and that, finally, it can be ratooned for at least one season, so that the difficulty of unsuitable weather at the planting season will be to some extent overcome. The disadvantage is that it commands a price considerably below that for Fiji grown Sea Island. It is too early to say whether the advantages of this type will outweigh the one serious disadvantage. It is estimated that about 800 acres of the Kidney type of cotton are being grown this year in the Sigatoka Valley and it is hoped that the cotton produced from this acreage will enable growers to decide whether or not they wish to grow this type of cotton in future in preference to the Sea Island variety. The Kidney type of cotton is not yet fixed to type absolutely and the price anticipated for the crop from the 800 acres is likely to command a somewhat smaller price than the cotton of similar type, but more properly fixed, grown in subsequent years.

Production of Sea Island cotton since the revival of the industry has been :—

1923	...	...	101	bales of approximately 350 lb.
1924	...	...	180	" " " " "
1925	...	...	136	" " " " "
1926	...	...	919	" " " " "
1927	...	...	404	" " " " "
1928	...	...	124	" " " " "

Dairying.

Manufacture of creamery butter in the Colony was commenced in 1922 at the Tailevu Dairy Factory and from that date the industry has steadily grown as shown by the following figures :—

Lb. of butter.

1920	...	...	—	} For the most part not produced at a factory.
1921	...	...	13,104	
1922	...	...	23,785	
1923	...	...	59,219	
1924	...	...	143,219	
1925	...	...	168,844	
1926	...	...	247,727	
1927	...	...	302,513	
1928	...	...	313,655	
			1,272,066	

The partial drought in 1928 prevented the increase in production from being as great as it would otherwise have been. Rains fell towards the end of the year, however, and pastures recovered very quickly.

There are three factories, one at Navua, one at Rewa, and one at Tailevu, and a small increase in production took place at each factory during 1928.

When the industry commenced in 1922 practically all the butter consumed within the Colony was imported. During the intervening period production has increased to such an extent that the local demand can now be satisfied and a small amount of butter can be exported annually.

Exports commenced in 1925 and the figures are as follows :—

1925	...	...	...	...	...	213	<i>cwt. exported.</i>
1926	...	...	...	...	...	525	„ „
1927	...	...	...	...	...	484	„ „
1928	...	...	...	...	...	303	„ „

Concurrently the local demand for butter has increased notably since 1922.

Pine-apple Canning.

The joint experiment in growing and canning pine-apples which was conducted by the Government and Canadian Cannery, Limited, came to an end in the early part of 1928, when the Canadian Company withdrew as it did not wish to carry on plantation work in this Colony and as its interests were mainly in canning and not in growing. A Company was then formed which was registered in New Zealand under the name of The Fijian Pine-apple Company, and this Company took over the factory that had been used during the two years of the experiment and commenced operations in 1928. This Company has lands on the island of Ovalau and contemplates transferring the factory from Suva to a site on Ovalau.

At Nadi on the north-west side of Vitilevu a second pine-apple Company has been formed under the name of the West Coast Pines (Fiji), Limited, and, while this Company is not yet in a position to operate a canning factory, a considerable area of land has already been planted with Smooth Cayenne Pine-apples.

In November a delegation from the Hawaiian Pine-apple Company, of Honolulu, visited the Colony and inspected various areas that were considered to be suitable for the growing of pine-apples on a large scale. As a result of this visit an arrangement has been made under which a short term lease of the lands towards the head-waters of the Dreketi River has been taken up by a local resident in order that the Company may carry on experiments extending over a three years' period, which will enable the Company to come to a decision whether it will pay to develop the pine-apple industry on a large scale in this Colony.

The progress of this industry is shown by the following production figures :—

In 1926, 125 tons of pine-apples were tinned.

„ 1927, 212 „ „ „ „ „

„ 1928, 152 „ „ „ „ „

The small tonnage in 1928 is due to the fact that no fruit was used from the experimental plots at Tova on account of transport difficulties.

Rice.

In order to encourage the growing of rice the Government established a Rice Mill in 1922. Since that time three smaller mills have come into operation and it is understood that plans have been made for the erection of several more of these small mills. The Colony is seldom able to produce as much rice as it requires, the quantities imported during the last five years being as follows :—

							<i>Cwt.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,158
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,983
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	47,808
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,143
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,380

The Government Rice Mill has been in operation since 1922 and has produced the following quantities of rice :—

							<i>Cwt.</i>
1922	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,860
1923	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,560
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,220
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,040
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,600
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,660
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,180

The total production from all mills in 1928 was 16,300 cwt.

The rice-consuming community has increased considerably since 1922, both amongst the Fijians and Indians. The total consumption of rice in the Colony is not known because many Indians grow their own rice for local consumption. It is known, however, to be not less than 2,400 tons, and is probably greatly in excess of that figure.

Cattle.

The number of cattle in the Colony is estimated to be 700,000, the majority of which originated from Shorthorn and Hereford beef strains. These cattle are used as weeders on coconut estates and also supply the local market with beef. A certain number of cattle are also used for draught purposes. There are approximately 137 pure bred bulls in use in the Colony.

Meat-canning.

Early in 1928 the Fiji Development Company, Limited, commenced operations at their meat-canning factory on the Tova Estate. During the year this cannery has produced 52,000 lb. of canned meats and although difficulties were experienced at first the grade of beef produced is now considered to be excellent and it is gaining rapidly in popularity in the Colony and is also attracting orders from Samoa and Tonga.

Forestry.

Decision on applications for timber concessions continued to be deferred pending full consideration of the report of the Forestry expert who investigated the forests of the Colony during 1927. One concession over 1,000 acres was cancelled.

Statements of quantities of milled timber are not supplied by the millers to the Government, but it may reasonably be presumed from various indications that production has decreased rather than the contrary.

The Fiji Kauri Timber and Land Company's mill in the mountains at Nadarivatu ceased cutting and remained idle for some months owing to the difficulty in transporting milled timber to the coast.

The problem of economical transport is still under consideration.

Messrs. J. T. Tuck & Sons of Buca Bay have virtually ceased production owing to lack of the capital required for reaching and working good timber among the hills back from the coast.

The Pacific Timbers, Limited, on Vanualevu Island, has not yet established effective production.

Messrs. A. H. Marlow & Co., and The Rewa Sawmilling Co., continue in operation, but most of the timber milled is used for cases. Customs records show that 32,079 superficial feet, valued at £322, were exported, mostly to Samoa.

Mr. J. P. Mead's report on the forests of the Colony, and his recommendations, were given consideration during the year, and, following the visit of Major R. D. Furse, D.S.O., of the Colonial Office Staff, and Mr. R. L. Robinson, O.B.E., of the Forestry Commission, *en route* to Australia and New Zealand to attend the Empire Forestry Conference, the Governor appointed Mr. I. McOwan, Secretary for Native Affairs, to represent the Colony at the Conference.

Mining Operations.

No discoveries of payable mineral deposits have hitherto been reported and operations have been limited to prospecting operations only. Six Prospecting Licences covering 1,820 acres remained in force at the end of the year and twenty-two new Prospecting Licences covering 10,659 acres were issued during the year. Miner's Rights issued numbered twenty-eight. An inquiry was received respecting the conditions governing licences to explore for oil in the Colony.

At the request of the Secretary of State, regulations under the Oil Mines Ordinance, 1915, were drafted and submitted to him for consideration.

Rubber.

Since the slump in the price of rubber in the latter part of 1926, production in the Colony has fallen off to such an extent that little or no importance can now be attached to what was, prior to 1927, a promising industry. Many plantations have been allowed to revert to bush, and until more attractive prices are offered it is doubtful whether further interest will be taken in them as rubber growing areas. Exports in 1928 show a decrease of 126,577 lb. from the previous year, but these figures should not be accepted as representing the actual drop in production. The yield for 1928 would probably be in the vicinity of 40,000 lb.

Exports during the past five years were as follows :—

							<i>Lb.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	159,995
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	144,331
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	233,990
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	221,230
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	94,661

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total trade of the Colony in 1928 amounted to £4,184,420 of which the value of imports was £1,483,169 and of exports £2,701,251. The value of imports in 1928 was greater than that of 1927 by £259,866, while the value of exports exceeded that of 1927 by £703,877. In 1927 the value of exports exceeded the value of imports by £774,071 and in 1928 the balance of trade in favour of the Colony amounted to £1,218,082.

On two previous occasions the trade of the Colony exceeded £4,000,000, viz. in 1920 and 1921. In each of those years the value of sugar exported was considerably greater than in 1928 although the tonnage exported was less.

The following figures show the trade of the Colony for the last five years :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>	<i>Total Trade.</i>
	£	£	£
1924	1,066,594	1,508,934	2,575,528
1925	1,271,135	2,156,257	3,427,392
1926	1,480,945	1,740,427	3,221,372
1927	1,223,303	1,997,374	3,220,677
1928	1,483,169	2,701,251	4,184,420

During the period the value of imports from the principal countries was as follows :—

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
<i>Country.</i>	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	269,231	332,080	444,047	316,824	404,718
Australia ...	438,715	576,260	607,171	528,740	621,396
Canada ...	59,067	42,128	59,633	51,105	70,262
India ...	39,643	25,423	48,161	45,253	44,613
New Zealand ...	127,837	117,413	142,225	124,775	140,697
Japan ...	14,065	13,314	30,067	13,454	28,811
United States ...	103,356	143,089	123,574	122,470	131,994

The preceding figures show that during the years mentioned the proportion of total import trade done with the several countries was as under :—

<i>Country.</i>	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>	<i>per cent.</i>
United Kingdom ...	25.24	26.12	29.99	25.90	27.28
Australia ...	41.13	45.33	41.00	43.22	41.90
Canada ...	5.54	3.30	4.03	4.18	4.19
India ...	3.72	2.00	3.25	3.70	3.00
New Zealand ...	11.98	9.24	9.60	10.20	9.48
Japan ...	1.32	1.05	2.03	1.09	1.94
United States ...	9.69	11.26	8.34	10.02	8.90

Imports.

The United Kingdom is the main source of our general imports.

These cover practically every class of goods and include sugar machinery, steam and oil engines, railway track, canning machinery, steel and metal bars and sheets, paints and oils, cement, hardware, enamelled ware, cutlery, clothing, piece goods, preserves, &c., but no trade is done in power or illuminating oils nor foodstuffs other than a small quantity of canned goods.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom rose from £316,824 in 1927 to £404,718 in 1928. The proportion of import trade with the United Kingdom was 27.28 per cent. in 1928 and the average for the last five years was 26.91 per cent. The United Kingdom does not supply foodstuffs to the Colony.

The main import trade with Australia and New Zealand is in foodstuffs and coal, the balance being made up mostly of goods re-exported, and the imports from Canada are represented chiefly by canned fish, motor-cars, tyres, and timber.

The imports from the United States of America consist mainly of lubricating, illuminating, and power oils and items of general hardware, those from Japan being chiefly cheap cotton goods.

Exports.

The following Return shows the principal domestic exports from the Colony during the last five years :—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Quantity.	Value	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Sugar ...	44,472	768,110	91,744	1,371,267	56,991	808,195	72,752	1,125,215	120,683	1,827,095
Copra ...	23,137	484,496	24,133	497,713	27,868	573,475	26,560	534,416	27,947	567,254
Molasses ...	4,783	4,783	8,283	8,283	7,374	7,374	11,181	11,181	14,599	14,599
Bananas ...	467,845	115,246	565,623	132,491	564,397	138,040	544,359	157,819	521,003	147,781
Rubber ...	159,995	7,416	145,213	16,116	233,990	23,581	221,238	15,276	94,861	4,704
Gum ...	600	984	980	1,504	1,511	2,678	1,145	1,707	865	1,212
Shell, turtle ...	1,446	1,313	2,412	3,179	3,385	4,538	1,278	1,382	1,965½	2,461
Shell, trocas ...	584	21,565	567	35,054	378	30,540	269	16,355	232	13,693
Bêche de mer ...	459	1,896	671	3,105	886	3,909	1,412	6,496	601	3,361
Biscuits ...	334,365	7,788	482,146	10,429	453,397	9,095	360,387	9,334	438,211	11,306
Butter ...	—	—	213	1,881	525	3,616	484	3,615	303½	2,269
Cotton ...	86,659	7,176	7,612	571	190,243	17,138	249,355	17,593	75,366	5,339
Oil, coconut ...	74	2,977	132	5,026	91½	4,387	79	3,357	101½	4,421
Fruit, other fresh ...	—	2,756	—	6,041	—	6,579	—	5,536	—	1,256
Vegetables ...	5,853	2,572	4,845	3,171	10,509	4,958	7,228	3,717	9,147	6,169

As will be seen from the preceding table, the main exports of the Colony are sugar, copra, and bananas.

The production of copra is steadily increasing although in no marked degree. The value of the copra exported during 1928 was £567,254, representing a tonnage of 27,947 tons, of which 25,529 tons were shipped to United Kingdom and Continental ports and 2,418 tons to the United States of America.

Of the 120,683 tons of sugar exported in 1928, 28,781 tons were exported to New Zealand and 79,485 tons to Canada. The latter is a comparatively new market for Fiji sugar; the whole output in former years being taken by New Zealand. The prospects of the industry are good.

The banana industry is the one most suited to the natives and practically the whole of the bananas exported were grown by natives. New Zealand is our only market at present but it is thought possible that, with improved methods of planting and packing, entry may again be made into the markets of the Commonwealth of Australia, from which Fiji bananas, on account of the heavy import duty, have been practically excluded for many years.

Of the other items appearing in the above list, those of particular interest are rubber and cotton. These are comparatively new industries. A considerable falling off in rubber exports occurred in 1928 which was due to the low market value in the United Kingdom. Only 94,661 lb. were exported, whereas 221,238 lb. were exported in 1927. 59,938 lb. were shipped to United States of America and 34,723 lb. to the United Kingdom. The whole of the cotton exported was shipped to the United Kingdom.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Steamers of the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line call at Suva once every four weeks on their voyages between Sydney (Australia) and Vancouver (Canada) and vice versa. These steamers also call at Auckland (New Zealand) and Honolulu (Hawaii). The Australasian United Steam Navigation Company, Limited, provides a regular steamer between Suva-Lautoka and Sydney once every three weeks and the Union Steam Ship Company, Limited, provides a regular steamer between Auckland (New Zealand), Suva, Apia, and Samoa once every four weeks. The Matson Navigation Company's steamers call at Suva once every three weeks on their voyages between San Francisco and Sydney and vice versa. Inter-island communication is provided by a steamer owned by Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, the Government steam yacht *Pioneer*, several small steamers owned by the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, and by a number of auxiliary vessels and cutters.

A mail subsidy of £5,000 per annum is paid to the Canadian-Australasian Royal Mail Line, a condition of the contract being that the vessels remain in port at Suva for six hours of daylight. A

subsidy of £1,300 per annum is paid to the Fiji Shipping Company, Limited, for a steamer service between Suva and Labasa via coastal ports on Vanualevu. A subsidy of £7,500 per annum is paid to Burns Philp (South Sea) Company, Limited, for the inter-insular steamer provided by that Company, which calls regularly at Taveuni and at a number of outlying islands and copra-producing centres.

The principal route for English mails is via Vancouver by the Royal Mail Line and via San Francisco by the Matson Navigation Company, the average time of transit being 28-30 days. In addition to the regular steamers, mails for New Zealand and Australia are despatched whenever opportunity offers, the time of transit to Sydney direct being 5 to 6 days and to Auckland 4 days.

The towns of Suva and Levuka situated 54 miles apart and on different islands are connected by a telephone line, $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles of which is submarine cable. The main island of Vitilevu is intersected by a telephone line between Suva and Lautoka passing through Nausori, Vunidawa, Nadarivatu, and Ba. The total length of the line is 125 miles. The section Nausori to Ba is the joint property of the Government, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and the Union Steam Ship Company, Limited, of New Zealand. Certain hours during each day are allotted for Government and public use. The Ba-Lautoka section which belongs to the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, is also available for Government and public use during certain hours daily.

Government telephone systems are established in the towns of Suva and Levuka and in the districts of Nausori, Navua, Savusavu, and Taveuni. There is also a Government telephone line between Suva and Navua. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited, have private systems at and between Ba, Lautoka, Nadi and Sigatoka, and also at Labasa on Vanualevu.

The Government Wireless Stations at Suva, Labasa, Savusavu, and Taveuni were transferred to the Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Limited, on the 1st January, 1928. The agreement with the Company provides for improvement of services and apparatus and for the establishment of direct communication with Australia.

The Pacific Cable Board have an office in Suva and direct cable communication is provided between Fiji and Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The road system of the Colony consists of about 1,886 miles of road, of which 343 miles are suitable for motor traffic in all weathers and 468 miles for motor traffic in fine weather. These roads are not continuous, being situated in five or six islands and centred at Suva, Lautoka, Navua, Sigatoka, Taveuni, Savusavu, and Lau, and they are in some cases not interconnected even when situated in the same island. The remainder of the roads consist of cart roads (about 98 miles) and bridle-tracks.

With the advent of increased numbers of motor vehicles, progress has been along the lines of improving road surfaces to meet the steady increase in traffic.

The numbers of motor vehicles registered at the end of 1926, 1927, and 1928 were as follows :—

	1926.	1927.	1928.
Private cars	297	378	470
Public cars	311	320	327
Lorries	117	151	193
Motor-cycles	98	100	136
	823	949	1,126

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

The administration of justice throughout the Colony is provided for by the constitution of the Supreme Court and various district Courts of Summary Jurisdiction—Ordinance No. 4 of 1875 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record and Supreme Court of Judicature in the Colony.

It consists of a Judge, called the Chief Justice, appointed from time to time by Letters Patent and holding office during His Majesty's pleasure.

The officers of the Court are a Registrar, a Deputy Registrar, a Clerk, and an Interpreter.

Under Ordinance No. 4 of 1875, provision is also made for the appointment of a Sheriff whose duty it is to execute all process of the Supreme Court and to act as Marshal of the Supreme Court in its Admiralty jurisdiction. The Sheriff is assisted in his work by Deputy Sheriffs in the country districts, the duty being performed by the various District Commissioners.

The same Ordinance contains powers for the admission by the Chief Justice of barristers and solicitors to practise in the Colony. The terms of these admissions are further regulated by Rules of the Supreme Court, dated the 14th May, 1883. Persons so admitted are deemed to be officers of the Supreme Court.

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is defined by sections 28, 29, and 30 of the Ordinance. By these sections it is enacted that the Supreme Court shall within the Colony have the same jurisdiction as that which His Majesty's High Court of Justice has in England, and it is thereunder constituted a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery Assize and Nisi Prius with like powers and jurisdiction as such Court has in England.

It is a Court of Equity and has within the Colony the same jurisdiction as the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, and the powers and authorities of the Lord Chancellor of England.

It is further a Court of Probate and a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, and under an Order in Council, dated the 10th March, 1894, Rules providing for the Admiralty jurisdiction of the Court were also established.

In addition to the local Ordinances, the Common Law, the Rules of Equity, and the Statutes of general application which were in force in England on the 2nd January, 1875, are in force in the Colony, but only so far as the circumstances of the Colony and its inhabitants permit, and this provision applies to all Imperial laws extended to the Colony.

During the year there are four Criminal Sessions of the Court sitting as the Central Criminal Court. These Sessions are held at Suva in April, July, September, and December. The Court also goes on Circuit to Lautoka in February, June, and October each year to obviate the expense and inconvenience of bringing into Suva the accused and witnesses from some of the outlying districts.

The Criminal Procedure of the Supreme Court is laid down by Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, by which it is directed that trials shall be either by a jury of seven or by the Chief Justice sitting with assessors. When the accused or the person against whom the crime has been committed is a native of the Colony, or a Polynesian, or native of India or China, or any Pacific Island, the trial takes place before the Chief Justice with the aid of assessors in lieu of a Jury, unless the Chief Justice shall for special reasons think fit otherwise to order. It is provided that the opinion of each assessor shall be given orally and recorded in writing, but the decision shall be vested exclusively in the Judge. In Jury cases the members of the Jury are required in the first instance to give a unanimous verdict, but if after a deliberation of at least four hours they are unable to agree, the Court can accept a verdict of not less than 5 to 2.

In ordinary cases two assessors sit with the Chief Justice: in capital cases there must not be less than four assessors. Male residents, of an age between 21 and 60, with a competent knowledge of English and a gross income of £50 a year, are liable to be called as jurymen, with the exception of members of Executive and Legislative Councils, Government officers, persons employed by the Pacific Cable Board, practising physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, barristers and solicitors and their clerks in actual practice, clergymen and ministers, naval and military officers, masters of vessels and licensed pilots, and persons disabled by mental and bodily infirmity. Persons are called to serve as assessors from lists compiled by the Colonial Secretary, or such other officer as the Governor may designate, consisting of such male persons as are considered qualified from their education and character to serve in such a capacity. Exemptions from serving as assessors are similar to those in the case of jurymen. In capital cases sentence of death is pronounced by the Chief Justice, by whom a copy of notes of the evidence taken at the trial are forwarded to the Governor with a

report containing any recommendations or observations he may think fit to make. The Governor after considering the report in Executive Council communicates the terms of his decision to the Chief Justice, who causes the tenor and substance to be entered in the Court records. The Governor in these cases either issues a death warrant, an order for sentence of death to be commuted, or a pardon.

On the civil side, the Supreme Court has unlimited jurisdiction within the Colony and is governed in its practice by the Civil Procedure Rules, dated the 11th March, 1876, as amended by subsequent rules. These Rules are in substance the same as the rules contained in the first schedule to "The Supreme Court of Judicature Act, 1875," forming the practice of the High Court of Justice in England, and where no other provision is made by "The Civil Procedure Rules (1875)" or by any other rules of the Supreme Court the procedure and practice for the time being of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England is in force.*

The Civil Procedure Rules have been supplemented in special matters by other rules, the chief of which are ;—

The Bankruptcy Rules, 1890,

Rules of the Supreme Court (Probate), 1905,

Rules of 1906 dealing with Originating Summonses and Motions, and the Admiralty Rules already referred to.

Provision is made for obtaining evidence for Foreign Courts and Tribunals under Rules made in 1908 and service out of the jurisdiction and of foreign process within the jurisdiction are covered by Rules made in 1912.

The ordinary sittings of the Supreme Court are held in Suva and are three in number, Michaelmas Sittings beginning on the 1st November, Easter Sittings on the 1st March, and Trinity Sittings on the 1st August.†

An Ordinance of 1883 provides that if the Chief Justice shall think that the nature or amount of civil business pending at Levuka (the ancient capital) is sufficient to warrant the holding of a sitting there, he may appoint a date for such sitting. Of recent years this power has not been utilised and the provision of the "Levuka District Registry" by which all preliminary matters up to the actual hearing can be dealt with, has been very seldom used, as litigants prefer to come to Suva.

The only appeal from the Supreme Court is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, both Criminal and Civil, are, in the country, presided over by the District Commissioners to whom the various districts are assigned, and in Suva, by the Chief Police Magistrate. Broadly speaking, the powers of these officers are confined to dealing with minor offences on the criminal side with power to inflict a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment, while on the civil side the Summary Procedure Rules of 1916

* Cf. Rules of Supreme Court, 1894, p. 394, Royal Gazette, 1893.

† Rules, 1906.

limit their jurisdiction as Commissioners of the Supreme Court to claims not exceeding the amount of £50.

District Commissioners have Criminal jurisdiction throughout the Colony, but their Civil jurisdiction as Commissioners does not extend beyond the limits of the Magisterial Districts to which they are appointed. District Commissioners also conduct the preliminary investigations in all indictable cases, the procedure being laid down in Ordinance No. 3 of 1876. Appeal from decisions of these inferior Courts to the Supreme Court is provided* in criminal matters when (a) the amount adjudged to be paid exceeds £3, or (b) a person has been adjudged to be imprisoned without the option of a fine, or (c) a charge has been dismissed, or (d) in any other case with leave of the Court where the question involved is one which, in the opinion of the Court, is of sufficient importance to justify an appeal, provided that the party did not plead guilty, and also that an appeal from a decision dismissing a charge shall in every case be by way of a stated case on a point of law. (Ordinance No. 2 of 1903). Appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of Commissioners in civil matters are provided for under the Summary Procedure Rules, 1916, in all cases in which any judgment or order is pronounced for or in respect of any sum or matter at issue above the amount or value of £10.

Administration in the districts is supplemented by Native Regulations which provide for the establishment of Courts having jurisdiction over natives of the Colony only. The Native Regulation Board has recently revised these Regulations and a new edition was brought into force by Proclamation in September, 1928. The Courts constituted under the Native Affairs Ordinance, 1876, and these Regulations are of two kinds. Firstly, there are the Provincial Courts composed of the European Magistrate (District Commissioner) sitting with the Native Stipendiary Magistrate and dealing with matters under the Native Courts Code, 1927, and the other Regulations passed by the Board to govern the life of the natives in accordance with their customs, and their communal social system and their system of land-tenure. These Courts are given minor criminal and civil powers over natives and can hear petitions for divorce from natives but cannot pronounce decrees, the documents in each case being forwarded to the Chief Justice for actual decision. Secondly, there is the District Court, presided over by the Native Stipendiary Magistrate sitting alone, whose jurisdiction is limited to petty offences amongst natives involving a maximum penalty of 40s. or imprisonment for 2 months, and in civil matters having jurisdiction where the sum of money or the value of the property claimed does not exceed 80s.

Provision is made for appeals from the District Court to the Provincial Court and from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court.

On the criminal side of the Court there were, during the year 1928, 48 cases committed for trial involving some 74 accused.

* Ordinance 2 of 1903.

There was, in addition, one case of contempt of Court. Amongst the cases heard were two for murder (involving in one instance 7 accused), but in both these cases the accused were found "not guilty." Trials during the year held at the Central Criminal Court and Circuit Court resulted in 41 convictions and 18 acquittals. With regard to the balance, the Attorney-General entered a *Nolle Prosequi* in the case of 8 accused, while a case involving 5 accused was returned to the district to be dealt with summarily. In two other instances the accused escaped while awaiting their trial. Crime, generally speaking, was composed of offences against the person.

On the civil side, 75 actions were instituted in the Supreme Court during the year under review, as follows:—Summonses for debt, &c., 42; actions under mortgages, &c., 13; summonses for rent and rates, 4; actions for damages, 3; applications for admissions as barristers and solicitors, 3; originating summonses, 2; petitions for reduction of capital, 2; Writs of Habeas Corpus, 2; miscellaneous, 4.

In the Appellate jurisdiction there were 5 criminal, and 3 civil appeals, lodged.

In the Divorce Court, 5 petitions were filed, one being from a European, and the others from Indian and half-caste petitioners. There was a considerable increase of petitions for divorce by natives under the provisions of the Divorce Regulation, 240 petitions coming before the Chief Justice for his decision. Seventy grants of Letters of Administration and Probate were made during the year, and in the Bankruptcy Court 2 petitions were presented, one being by an Indian, and the other by a European, debtor.

Police.

(a) *Strength*.—On 31st December, 1928, the authorised strength of the Constabulary was:—

Europeans—

Inspector-General	...	...	...	...	1
Deputy Inspector-General	...	...	...	...	1
District Inspectors	...	...	...	...	5
Sub-Inspectors First Grade	...	...	...	...	4
Sub-Inspectors Second Grade	...	...	...	...	6

Natives—

N.C.O.'s	...	...	...	...	...	22
Constables	...	...	...	...	...	92

Indians—

N.C.O.'s	...	...	...	...	...	13
Constables	...	...	...	...	...	78

222

The Force was three short of strength on that date.

The officers and men were distributed over 25 stations on 7 different islands.

(b) *Expenditure*.—The total cost of the Force for all services was £21,383 16s. 5d. The cost of the Police per man was £96 6s. 5d., and the cost per head of population was 2s. 5d.

(c) *Crime*.—The number of persons prosecuted for offences of all kinds was 2,034, classified as follows :—

Offences against the person	...	...	...	189
Offences against property	...	...	...	329
Other offences	...	...	...	1,516

There were two cases of homicide, two of rape, and three of breaking and entering. About sixty per centum of the offenders were Indians.

(d) Supervision is exercised over all persons entering or leaving the Colony.

(e) *Traffic*.—All traffic is controlled by the Constabulary, which carries out the registration of motor vehicles and the examination and licensing of drivers.

The number of motor vehicles registered in the Colony is 1,126, being as follows :—

Motor-cars for private use	...	...	...	470
Public motor passenger vehicles	...	...	...	327
Goods lorries	...	...	...	193
Motor-cycles	...	...	...	136

222 persons were convicted of offences against the Traffic Ordinance and Regulations, 10 of them in respect of reckless or negligent driving.

(f) *Training*.—The fact that it has not been possible to provide funds to establish a Reserve renders the proper training of recruits a matter of difficulty.

(g) *Health*.—The health of the Force was good throughout the Colony, very few men reporting sick.

(h) *Barracks*.—Except at Suva, the accommodation is adequate. It is hoped that the contemplated extension and reconstruction of the headquarters buildings and offices will be undertaken in 1929. These new buildings when completed will be of great benefit to the members of the Force and to the public who have business to transact with the Police.

(i) Communication between stations is hampered by the scarcity of roads. The provision of transport between the different islands is often difficult as it is rarely possible to find when required vessels travelling in the desired direction.

Prisons.

The prisons of the Colony are under the charge of a Superintendent.

The main penitentiary is at Suva, and is an up-to-date establishment with every modern improvement for the safe custody and handling of criminals. The system is not reformatory, but industries have been established whereby prisoners are taught useful trades such as tinsmithing, blacksmithing, matmaking, tailoring, and carpentering. There is also a Government bakery at Suva Gaol, which is conducted at a substantial profit. There are nineteen Provincial or District Gaols where short-sentence prisoners are confined and are employed principally in maintaining the Government Stations.

No institution exists at present for reformatory treatment of youthful criminals, but a Committee appointed to investigate this subject and submit recommendations thereon is about to report on the advisability of adopting a suitable scheme for the handling of juvenile delinquents and it is likely that an Industrial School for the accommodation of offenders of this class will be established in the near future.

The annual numbers of persons committed to the prisons of the Colony have been as follows :—

						<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	1,037	6
1925	...	...	...	...	...	1,130	9
1926	...	...	...	...	...	997	30
1927	...	...	...	...	...	1,081	17
1928	...	...	...	...	...	1,209	15
Average over period...	...	...	...	...	...	1,090.8	15.4

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total sum expended by the Public Works Department in 1928 amounted to £204,880, of which £58,395 was expenditure under Loan Works Account. This marks another record in the operations of the Public Works Department, corresponding figures for the last five years being as follows :—

							£
1924	...	...	...	...	...	...	119,871
1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	115,683
1926	...	...	...	...	...	...	136,327
1927	...	...	...	...	...	...	170,187
1928	...	...	...	...	...	...	204,800

The administration of public works is under the control of the Commissioner of Works with headquarters in Suva. For the general executive purposes of the Department the Colony is divided into three districts with headquarters at Suva, Lautoka, and Levuka. Each of these districts is nominally under the charge of a District Engineer.

The Suva District is the most important and is based on Walu Bay, near Suva, where are situated the Government stores, machine shops, repair shops, and boatyard. The motor transport system, consisting of motor vehicles, inspection and towing launches, lighters, floating crane, &c., operates from Walu Bay. Further improvements in the equipment of the Public Works Department workshops at Walu Bay have been made during the year, notably the erection of a joiner's shop, equipped with the latest type of woodworking machines, the provision of a second slipway for small craft, which is about half completed and which should be in operation by about the middle of 1929, the completion of the new Government stores, and the erection of the foundry which is now ready for work.

The number of workmen employed by the Public Works Department in the Suva District is about 800 and the value of the works carried out in 1928 was £111,369 13s. 6d.

During the year the new Government House was completed and handed over by the contractor to the Government.

The most important work carried out departmentally was the building of the hostel for the girls attending the Girls' Grammar School, Suva, which was started in December, 1927, and at the end of 1928 was finished with the exception of a few minor details. This building is of reinforced concrete construction and is the largest building of this type erected departmentally for many years. The general finish of the building indicates the capacity of the Public Works Department for carrying out this and similar works. The facilities which are now provided at the Walu Bay workshops enable works of this nature to be done very much more cheaply and expeditiously departmentally than by contract.

During the year a scheme for supplying water to the native towns in the Nadi District was approved. The scheme involves the construction of a dam to a height of 240 feet above the lowest point of supply and the total length of the main and reticulation will be approximately 11 miles made up in the following sizes of pipes :—

					<i>Feet.</i>
4-in. cast iron pipe	...	...	...	...	32,275
2-in. gal. "	...	...	...	...	6,460
1½-in. " "	...	...	...	...	21,200
1-in. " "	...	...	...	...	5,750
¾-in. " "	...	...	...	...	3,850

The work in connection with this scheme is estimated to cost £10,000 and it is expected that the supply will be finished and in running order by the end of 1929

During the year the main structure of the King's Wharf, Suva, was kept under observation and repairs were carried out where necessary. The forward settlement of the trestle backing to the

reclamation has received attention, and the placing of the concrete mattress was completed at the southern end of the wharf and appears to have effectively overcome the trouble encountered.

The large amount of repairs to this structure which have to be made annually and the ever-increasing cost of upkeep indicate the unsuitability of wooden wharves to meet the climatic conditions of Suva and Fiji generally. Although in this wharf ironbark timber, one of the most durable of Australian hardwoods, has been used for wallings, fenders, girders, &c., yet after a period of some twelve years these timbers have decayed, or are showing signs of decay necessitating their replacement as occasion offers.

Schemes for various works were considered during the year, chief among which were the provision of wharfs at Namoli, Lautoka, and at Savusavu. In the schemes originally submitted both these structures were to be of reinforced concrete and the total estimated expenditure was £20,000. Another scheme discussed during the year but not yet finalised was the construction of the Rewa River bridge, estimated to cost about £30,000. There is every possibility that the work will be put in hand during 1929. The bridge should mark a very great advance in the operations of the Public Works Department and the construction should employ a considerable number of skilled and unskilled labourers for about eighteen months.

Roads and bridges continued to occupy the special attention of the Department. The total expenditure under this heading was £61,548 18s. 1d., of which £12,024 7s. 11d. was on loan account. The streets and roads within the Municipal areas of Suva and Levuka are maintained and improved by the respective Councils. The roads in the immediate vicinity of Suva are under the direct supervision of the District Engineer, while the remainder of the Colony is divided for purposes of road administration into sixteen Road Board areas, which as a rule coincide with the Magisterial Districts.

Motor traffic is increasing throughout the Colony and the policy of gradually improving earth-roads with metal and gravel surfaces at a number of working points simultaneously is producing good results. For this purpose motor lorries are the most useful form of road construction plant and the recent additions in this respect have produced a notable improvement in the rate of progress.

Under the present system the Road Boards, which have legally only advisory powers, are provided with funds from the General Revenue of the Colony.

The construction of the new road from Naduruloulou on the Rewa River to Korovou, Tailevu, was approved during the year and the work was started in September and was well in hand by the end of the year. This road traverses a considerable length of hilly country which renders construction both costly and difficult. Also, owing to the heavy rainfall, work is intermittent, particularly on the marshy portions in the valleys. The estimated cost of the road is £23,100. When finished it will form an important link in the chain

of roads which will ultimately encircle the island of Vitilevu. Though no great length of new road was made during the year, there has been a steady improvement throughout the Group in the provision of better road surfaces for motor transport. The work done by the various Road Boards has improved in excellence and volume with the passing of each year and the time is not far distant when the roads already in existence will be motorable throughout the year.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The year was a fairly satisfactory one as regards acute infectious fevers, but in the latter part of the year the type of influenza that occurred was more severe than usual and is accountable for the increased death-rate. In Rotuma, which escaped the 1918-1919 pandemic, it was particularly severe, the death-rate from this disease being 13.7 per thousand of the population.

The general death-rate was 18.6 per thousand, or 1.6 more than in the previous year. The death-rate of Fijians, 24.9, was 1.9 more than in the previous year; that of Indians 10.8 was satisfactory, but higher than in 1927.

On the other hand the birth-rate was 2.8 per thousand higher at 33 per thousand and all races shared in this increase.

The Smallpox Vaccination Campaign, started in 1927, was continued in 1928 and during these two years about two-thirds of the population were vaccinated.

The Infant Welfare Campaign amongst Fijian children was continued and there are now two whole-time trained nurses employed and a Lady Doctor is also a part-time worker.

During the year a campaign against yaws and ringworm was started and was partly financed by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The care of public health in the country districts is in the hands of fourteen District Medical Officers, forty-three Native Medical Practitioners, a European Sanitary Inspector, a European Ankylostomiasis Officer, and five Indian Sanitary Inspectors.

In Suva there is a whole-time Medical Officer of Health, three European Sanitary Inspectors, and one Fijian Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Besides the thirteen Provincial Hospitals there are General Hospitals at Levuka, Lautoka, and Nadi, an Indian Women's Hospital at Ba conducted by the Methodist Mission and subsidised by the Government, and also subsidised European Cottage Hospitals at Ba, Savusavu, and Taveuni.

The Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva has 113 beds. There is a European Nursing Staff of 5 trained Nurses and 12 Probationers, and there are 24 Native Nursing Pupils. There are two full-time Resident Medical Officers. Attached to the hospital is a Central Medical School for Natives. The School, which is an expansion of the former Native Medical School, was completed and

opened in 1928. Funds were provided by the Government of Fiji, and by the other Administrations in the Western Pacific which had agreed to send students to the school. The Rockefeller Foundation has contributed £8,000 towards the construction and maintenance of the school. At the end of 1928 17 Fijian and 3 Indian pupils from Fiji, 4 Samoans, 4 Gilbert Islanders, 4 Tongans, 2 Cook Islanders, 4 students for the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, and 2 for the New Hebrides were in residence. A Medical Officer is whole-time tutor to the school and there are six other lecturers and demonstrators.

Lepers of all races in Fiji are compulsorily segregated on the Island of Makogai, and lepers from New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, and the Cook Islands are also received in the Asylum.

The staff includes a Resident Medical Superintendent, 12 European and 8 Fijian Roman Catholic Nursing Sisters. There were 409 patients in the Asylum at the end of the year, of whom 11 were from New Zealand, 20 from Samoa, 13 from Tonga, and 63 from the Cook Islands.

IX.—EDUCATION.

The early history of education in Fiji is closely associated with the activities of both the Methodist and the Roman Catholic Missions, and at the present time the following bodies are all interested practically in education : Methodist Mission (1835), Roman Catholic Mission (1844), Church of England Mission (1870), Seventh Day Adventist Mission (1889), the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, Limited (1880), and local Fijian and Indian organisations.

Nearly fifty years ago the Government opened an Industrial School at Yanawai for Fijians, and some years later (1890) the increase in the number of Europeans settled in the Colony necessitated the opening of public schools in Suva and Levuka for European pupils. About this time, also, the Roman Catholic Mission founded schools in Suva for their European adherents.

In 1916 an official Education Department was created in order to systematize the activities of the various bodies engaged in educational work. The School Boards were replaced by the Board of Education and by School Committees, and Ordinances were passed to allow grants-in-aid to be made to primary and vernacular schools attended by pupils of all races settled in the Colony. In addition, the registration of all schools and teachers was made compulsory.

As a result of a resolution of the Great Council of Chiefs held in 1917, six provincial boarding schools for Fijians were established during the years 1920–1925, at which selected Fijian village pupils are enabled to receive a primary education under the guidance of European headmasters.

In 1926 an Education Commission was appointed to investigate the educational facilities provided in the Colony and to make

recommendations for their improvement. This Commission submitted a comprehensive report and several of its recommendations are being adopted. Mr. Caughley, M.A. (late Director of Education, New Zealand), was appointed Director of Education, Fiji, on the 3rd December, 1927, and steps are being taken to reorganise the Department of Education, to establish a Government Training School for Teachers, and to overhaul existing education legislation and regulations.

The educational facilities provided for European pupils are as follows :—

Under a scheme of co-operation existing between the Governments of New Zealand and Fiji, the Colony is enabled to obtain trained teachers for the Boys' and the Girls' Grammar Schools which exist in Suva and for the Public School, Levuka. The syllabus of instruction is designed to meet the requirements of examinations up to the standard of the New Zealand University Matriculation examination. The three schools have well-equipped hostels. The boarding fees for the Suva schools are £50 p.a., and the tuition fees for non-ratepayers are £2 2s. 0d. p.a., for primary pupils and £7 10s. 0d. p.a. for secondary pupils.

In addition, the Roman Catholic Orders of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny and of the Marist Brothers provide a sound education to a secondary standard for the children of their faith.

Small schools with certificated European Mistresses have been established at five country centres of European population in which children are given a primary education. Young children, whose parents are in isolated places, may be enrolled in the correspondence classes conducted by the Education Department.

For the Fijian natives a complete system of education is gradually being developed. Many of the villages possess a vernacular school managed by one or other of the Missions, and from a village school a pupil may proceed to one of ten assisted primary schools, or to one of the six Government provincial boarding schools. In all Government schools manual occupations form part of the curriculum and the pupils grow all native foodstuffs required for their maintenance. From the provincial schools the Fijian youth may proceed to the Queen Victoria School, or to one of the various Mission training institutions at which a higher education is provided. For the selected few there are Government scholarships enabling them to continue their studies in New Zealand.

As regards Indian education, there is one Government Indian school, and other schools established by the Missions and by private enterprise which are aided by Government grants. This year ten private Indian schools were admitted to grants, and there were at the end of 1928, 32 assisted primary schools, and some 30 private schools for Indians.

Under the provisions of the Registration of Schools and Teachers Ordinance, 1918, 646 schools and 1,408 teachers were registered up

to 31st December, 1928, and 12 schools and 34 teachers were exempted during the year from registration. The majority of these schools are native village schools in which instruction is given in the vernacular, in reading and in writing. There are now altogether 82 Government and assisted schools, 9 being for Europeans and pupils of mixed European descent, 36 for Fijians, 32 for Indians, and 5 receiving pupils of various races. They are attended by 6,936 pupils, of whom 694 are Europeans, or of European descent, 3,712 are Fijians and others, and 2,530 are Indians. The staffs consist of 71 European, 98 Fijian, and 54 Indian teachers.

The annual expenditure on education, which amounted to about £3,000 per annum prior to 1915, increased to £25,322 in 1923, £27,103 in 1924, £30,039 in 1925, £31,584 in 1926, £34,027 in 1927, and £36,089 in 1928.

The following is a list of the external examinations for which candidates may be entered: Cambridge Local Examinations (Preliminary, Junior, and School Certificate): New Zealand Education Department Examinations—Standard VI Proficiency and Public Service Entrance Examinations: New Zealand University Examinations, including Matriculation, Accountancy, Preliminary Examinations, and Degree and Diploma Examinations: London University Examinations, including Matriculation and various Degree Examinations: Australian Examinations, such as that for the Diploma of the Australian Trained Nurses Association, and the licence examination of the Federated Surveyors Boards of Australia and New Zealand.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

Prior to the British occupation of Fiji, European settlers had acquired large areas of land from the native chiefs, and, after the Deed of Cession, Crown grants for land, on claims substantiated before the Lands Commission, were issued. In this manner 414,615 acres were alienated.

By the year 1912, Crown grants for a further area of 20,184 acres of land purchased from the natives had been issued, but in this year the sale of native lands, except to the Government for specific purposes, was prohibited.

The standard tenure of land is leasehold up to ninety-nine years for leases for agricultural purposes, seventy-five years for building purposes, and twenty-one years with option of renewal for a further period of twenty-one years, subject to re-assessment of the rental, for leases for pastoral purposes. The rent for an agricultural leasehold for the maximum period of ninety-nine years is subject to re-assessment in the thirty-third and sixty-sixth years, or in the thirtieth and sixtieth years in the case of a lease for less than the maximum period. In leases for building purposes the rent is subject to re-assessment in the twenty-fifth and fiftieth years. In all cases

the rent is subject to re-assessment, to a maximum not exceeding five per centum of the unimproved capital value of the land. Lessees of expiring leaseholds of native-owned land are afforded a considerable measure of security of continuance of tenure by legislation which provides that in the event of refusal of the native owners, without just cause, to surrender control of the land for renewal of an expiring lease, the Governor-in-Council may require the native owners to agree to renew the lease or to pay such amount of compensation as the Governor-in-Council may decide to be the reasonable value of the permanent and unexhausted improvements made on the leasehold by the lessee.

Leases of Crown lands are submitted as a rule to public auction, usually with an upset premium of £2 to cover the cost of advertising the auction sale. Leases of small areas applied for by Indians are exempt from sale by public auction. Instructions for survey are issued by the Crown Surveyor on payment of the survey fees by the lessee, who is then entitled to enter into occupation.

The rent of land in Fiji varies according to situation and quality. Pasturable lands vary from 1*d.* to 2*s.* per acre, coconut lands from 6*d.* to 5*s.*, hill land from 6*d.* to 2*s.*, banana, sugar-cane, rice and maize land from 5*s.* to £1, the latter rental prevailing only in certain favoured localities in which supply and demand have resulted in that high rent.

The following statement shows the position as regards land alienated at the end of the year 1928 :—

Nature of Title.	No. of Titles.	Area.	In process of alienation.		Total.	Total area of Colony.
			No. of Lots.	Estimated Area.		
Freeholds...	1,589	Acres. 531,369	1	Acres. 287	Acres. 531,656	Acres. 4,523,620
Leases of Crown Land	341	19,047	58	3,029	22,076	—
Leases of Native Land	6,908	363,385	675	14,339	377,774	—
			Total	... ..	931,506	4,523,620

Six hundred and thirty-eight applications for leases of native lands aggregating 13,745 acres were received during the year. Of these 222 applications for 3,976 acres were approved and 266 applications for 5,640 acres were under consideration at the end of the year. Applications by Indians formed 85 per cent. of the total. Ninety-one applications for leases of Crown lands aggregated 5,401 acres. Of these thirty applications for 1,010 acres were

approved and 51 for 4,383 acres were under consideration at the end of the year, the remainder having been declined or withdrawn.

Survey.

The Survey staff of the Lands Department consists of five officers, two of whom are necessarily almost continuously employed at headquarters. During 1928, main traverse surveys were continued as routine work and miscellaneous surveys made as required. Six surveyors in private practice were employed under instructions from the Crown Surveyor on surveys for leases of native lands.

Two hundred and ninety-two plans were received from private surveyors, examined and passed for issue of leases.

Native Lands Commission.

The Native Lands Commission, which operates under Ordinance No. 1 of 1905, is charged with the duty of ascertaining what lands in each Province of the Colony are the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijian owners, and whether the ownership is by Mataqali (a tribal division) or by some other division or subdivision of the people.

The Commission consists of a European chairman and four native chiefs of the highest rank. The clerical staff is composed entirely of native officers, and the official language of the Commission is Fijian.

The members of the Commission are vested with the same powers as those vested in District Commissioners, to summon and examine on oath any person whom they think able to give relevant evidence, and to require the attendance of all claimants to any land the title of which is being inquired into, and of all persons likely to be interested in such land.

Any appeal against any decision of the Native Lands Commission, provided notice of appeal is lodged within sixty days of the announcement of the decision, is heard and determined by the Governor-in-Council, whose decision is final. If no notice of desire to appeal is given, the record of the decision is conclusive.

All lands recorded by the Commission as the rightful and hereditary property of native Fijians are surveyed by a staff of surveyors especially employed for the purpose. The cost of the survey is borne by the proprietary unit owning the land and is assessed on a scale prepared by the Crown Surveyor and approved by the Governor-in-Council. The law requires that the cost of survey shall be paid within six months after demand ; but, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Governor that any proprietary unit is unable to pay, the Governor is empowered to make such order as may seem fit and just. Natives have shown no disinclination to pay for the survey of their lands ; and to the 31st December, 1928, £15,291 had been recovered and paid into the Treasury.

The Commission in 1928 completed investigations in the Province of Macuata and in the major portion of the Province of Cakaudrove.

The number of surveyors attached to the Commission was increased during the year, and at the end of the year comprised ten surveyors and five supernumerary officers.

Survey operations were carried out in the Provinces of Colo East, Naitasiri, Colo North, Macuata, and Bua.

XI.—LABOUR.

The conditions under which native Fijians are employed as manual labourers differ in one most important respect from those which govern the employment of labour in most other parts of the world. There is no such thing as a labouring class of Fijians dependent for their subsistence upon their earnings as labourers. Every Fijian is a member of land-owning tribal unit and has the right to use a portion of the tribal lands for planting crops for food and profit or for the raising of cattle. He shares by right of birth in the income derived from permanent crops such as coconuts existing on his tribal lands, and in the rents from lands which are leased. If he remains in his village, he is provided with a house of native construction built by the community of which he is a member. Beyond performing his share of the work done for its own benefit by the community as a whole he pays no rent either for his land or his house. He is in fact a small-holder, owning his own land and house and capable of supporting himself and his dependents from the produce of his lands. In most cases he is also a landlord, and in the more closely settled districts receives a not inconsiderable income from the rents of leased lands. There is, therefore, no necessity for any Fijian to work for wages in order to support himself and his family. The vast majority of the Fijians do in fact support themselves by cultivating their own lands. An average of about 10 per cent. of the adult male population elects to work for wages for periods which in most cases seldom exceed one year. A few of the more enterprising amongst them leave their communities and live as independent units upon their earnings. Most of them, however, go to work as labourers for a definite period in order to obtain money for a specific object such as a church, a boat, or material for a European-style house. When sufficient money has been obtained for the object in view they return to their villages and resume their work as agriculturists. In this manner the personnel of the labourers is constantly changing and the number of labourers employed in any one year does not represent a definite section of the community which is dependent for its existence upon its wage-earning capacity. Thus the labour conditions do not exercise any considerable influence upon the Fijians as a whole apart from affording them a means of acquiring additional social amenities and of taking part in all branches of industry within the Colony.

The employment of Fijians falls mainly into the following five classes : agricultural labourers, casual labourers, artisans, seamen, and domestic servants.

Agricultural labourers are usually employed under a contract of service for a period of 12 months. The average wage is £24 a year on copra plantations and in the majority of cases for those who sign agreements with the Sugar Company £18 a year and a bonus of £5 at the conclusion of the contract, and in addition the employer provides food, lodging, medical attention, and a certain amount of clothing. The hours of labour are nine per day from Monday to Friday, and five on Saturday, making a working week of 50 hours. When additional hours are worked by the labourers they are either paid overtime or given time off to compensate for their additional work. Most of the agricultural labourers are employed on the copra and sugar cane estates. In many instances the labourers take their wives and families with them and quarters are provided for them by the employers. The cost of bringing labourers to an estate and of returning them to their villages on completion of their term of service is borne by the employers. A large proportion of the labourers elect to receive house-building material to the value of their wages instead of cash, and they take back this material for the erection of European-style houses in their villages. The taxes of all labourers are paid by the employer for the period of their service as labourers. No native may enter into a contract of service as an agricultural labourer for a period exceeding 12 months. Every contract of service for a period exceeding one month must be made before a District Commissioner who may withhold his consent to the contract if it appears to him to be unreasonable or inequitable. Apart from the comprehensive safeguards provided by law for the proper treatment and care of agricultural labourers, the limitation of the period of service under contract and the constant changing of the personnel of the labourers effectively prevents any ill-treatment by the employer. As all recruiting of labourers is entirely voluntary, any employer who earns a bad reputation amongst the Fijians finds very great difficulty in getting any labourers to work under agreement on his estate.

The employment of natives as casual labourers is practically confined to the ports of Suva and Levuka and Lautoka. They are employed chiefly for the loading and unloading of foreign-going ships and they return to their villages after the loading of each ship is completed. The average wage paid for this class of labour is 4s. a day. A limited number are employed by the week by the commercial houses for the distribution of merchandise, and are paid £1 a week. Most of the labourers thus employed come from the native villages in the vicinity of the ports, and as their personnel is constantly changing they do not form a class of casual labourers. The number of Fijians employed as artisans is comparatively small, but is slowly increasing as the facilities for training are extended.

They are mostly employed as carpenters, boat-builders, marine engineers, and firemen. The wages of carpenters and boat-builders vary from 7s. to 12s. a day, according to the skill of the worker. Marine engineers who are employed to drive the auxiliary power units in small inter-insular vessels are paid from £6 to £10 a month according to the size of the vessel in which they are employed. In addition to their wages they are supplied with food by the employer. As most of their time is spent at sea their wages are ample for the support of their dependents. A few natives are employed as firemen on inter-insular vessels and are paid an average wage of £5 a month.

Most of the small inter-insular boats are manned entirely by Fijians under the charge of a certificated native master. The wages paid to a Fijian master of a vessel vary from £6 to £16 a month according to the size of the vessel. The wages of the crew vary from £3 to £8 a month for a mate and from £2 to £4 a month for ordinary seamen. In all cases food is supplied by the owner of the vessel. Practically all native seamen are employed by the month and very few contracts are made for service over an extended period.

Very few Fijians are employed as domestic servants. Native cooks are paid from £4 to £6 a month and house-boys and waiters from £2 to £4 a month. Food and quarters are provided by the employer, and the employment can generally be terminated by either party at one month's notice.

The employment of Fijians for skilled and unskilled work is in all cases a matter of agreement between the employer and the worker. No scale of wages is laid down by law, but where agreements are entered into for any period over one month the District Commissioner may disallow the agreement if the terms offered are unreasonable. The constant changes amongst the individual labourers do not impose upon the natives a prolonged absence from their villages. Thus the social system under which the Fijians live is not seriously impaired by the employment of natives as labourers, nor is there any sensible weakening of tribal and customary control.

The majority of Indians who signed on for contract labour under the Masters and Servants Ordinance during the year 1928 were employed by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company during the cane-crushing season. The total number of Indian labourers employed by the Company remained about the same as in the previous year.

Approximately 3,000 are employed during the planting season, the number rising to over 4,000 during the harvesting and crushing season, inclusive of those working under written agreements.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Indian labourers dependent mainly on wages. In 1921 this was put at 5,000. The number so dependent is now considerably less, and only a small minority of Indian labourers are entirely dependent on their cash earnings. The great majority live on plots or small allotments on the outskirts

of settlements, and family earnings are supplemented by the produce of these and of the poultry and cows which are kept almost universally.

For regular employees of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company cash wages are supplemented by the provision of free accommodation and free medical attendance, a privilege extended to the families of labourers, who also are granted facilities for keeping cows. In addition to this employees of the Company are entitled to concession rates for their food supplies at the Company's stores. At current prices the concession is worth about 1s. 4d. a week to a single man and correspondingly more to men with families.

There has been practically no change in the general level of cash wages. In Suva the ordinary rate is 3s. per day (normally eight hours). The standard in country districts is 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. Wages for semi-skilled labour run up to 4s. and 5s. per day.

The information as to wages paid by the Colonial Sugar Refining Company may be summarised as follows:—

For field work the ordinary wage is 1s. 8d. per day for a six hours task, with opportunities for working extra time. A bonus of 6d. per week is given for a full week's work. Harvest wages are by piece work at a standard rate per ton, and cane cutters earn up to 22s. 6d. per week or more. Skilled agricultural labourers, ploughmen, tractor drivers and the like are paid at special rates ranging from 9s. 9d. to 17s. per week, with a bonus for a full week's work. A full week's work is normally 5½ days.

In the mills during the slack season wages range from 10s. to 21s. a week, with an additional bonus. Special workmen are paid up to 30s. a week. During the crushing season the basic wage is 11s. 6d. a week with higher wages for a large proportion for special work and extra wages for overtime. Bonuses for a full week's work range from 2s. 3d. to 3s. 9d. Men engaged for the season (about six months) are also entitled to an extra bonus of £4 to £4 10s. 0d. for a full season's work.

The general range of wages for domestic servants in the Colony is from £3 a month for garden hands (5½ days) to £5 or £6 for cooks and table servants (generally 6½ days), with food supplied during the day. The great majority of domestic servants live in their own homes. Car drivers are paid £8 per month and upwards.

During the period 1912 to 1919, after which indentures were abolished, the average wage of an indentured labourer per working day rose from 13.32d. to 15.36d. in 1917 and to 18.13d. in 1919. Except in the year 1914 the average wage paid to the additional contract labour employed during the crushing season was 21d.

The general wage for labour in Suva seems to have remained at 2s. to 2s. 6d. a day throughout the period.

Indian wages in outlying plantations are higher than those quoted above and are generally supplemented by free quarters and food supplies at concession rates.

The demand for labour exceeds the supply and the majority of the Punjabis who arrived at the end of the year found employment at once.

Public Works Department Labour.

The total number of labourers, skilled and unskilled, at present employed under the Public Works Department, including Road Boards, is about 1,232. Of these 831 are employed in the Suva District and 401 in the various country districts. The labour is composed of several nationalities as set out hereunder :—

<i>Europeans.</i>	<i>Half-castes.</i>	<i>Indians.</i>	<i>Fijians.</i>	<i>Others.</i>
70	99	678	354	31

No race or class distinction is made with regard to labour. Europeans, Indians, Fijians, Chinese, &c., often work together in the same gang and each is paid in accordance with the standard of work done.

Road labourers compose more than half the labour force. Of these 592 are Indians and 254 Fijians. The Fijian does not, as a rule, care for the heavy routine work of repairing roads and it is only in the country districts where Indian labour is scarce that they find employment in this manner. Fijians chiefly find employment in the Works Department as carpenters, boat-builders, and water transport workers. Indians compose the bulk of unskilled labour on road and quarry works, and builders and dockyard labourers are for the most part of this race.

Indian labour is scarce throughout the Colony, and it is the usual custom for the labouring class of Indians to cultivate a small area of paddy and maize in addition to performing daily work. During the planting and harvesting seasons considerable numbers of labourers spend the whole of their time on agriculture and gangs are depleted. Works, however, are arranged accordingly.

The general rate of wages for unskilled labour in the Suva district is 3s. per day of eight hours and 2s. 6d. in the country. Where Indian labour is scarce in country districts Fijians command a somewhat higher rate. Levuka, for instance, has to pay 4s. for Fijians and Taveuni and Vunidawa 3s. In other cases the rates are the same for Indians and Fijians at 2s. 6d. There are about 850 unskilled labourers employed by the Department. In addition there is a body of about 200 which can only be classed as semi-skilled men earning from 3s. 6d. up to 6s. per day as members of launch crews, slipway hands, helpers to various trades, timekeepers, painters, &c. Among the skilled trades it is sometimes difficult to obtain trained men, and comparatively high wages are commanded by good tradesmen. Europeans are employed as road overseers, lorry, crane, and steam-roller drivers, fitters, machinists, blacksmiths, &c.

The half-castes usually find employment in the building trades as carpenters, joiners, and boat-builders.

The wages of skilled workmen vary considerably with the individual standard of skill. There are no fixed rates and no trade unions.

The following figures will give some idea of the current rates :—

Carpenters and Joiners.—From 3*s.* 6*d.* up to £1 per day, depending on the degree of skill. Half-caste carpenters from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 16*s.* per day. Fijians can earn up to 12*s.* per day.

Boat-builders.—(Chiefly half-castes), from 8*s.* up to £1 per day. Semi-skilled Fijians employed in the boat-sheds from 3*s.* 9*d.* up to 8*s.*

Painters.—(Usually Indians), 3*s.* 6*d.* per day. Leaders up to 9*s.* per day.

Mechanics.—(Including motor mechanics, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, boilermasters, &c.), up to £1 per day. Apprentices, 5*s.*, rising to £2 5*s.* 0*d.* per week. Usually Europeans and half-castes.

Lorry and Steam-roller Drivers.—(Chiefly Europeans) 15*s.* to 18*s.* per day. The average wages are about £4 15*s.* 0*d.* per week.

Road Overseers.—(Chiefly Europeans) £18 to £25 per month. Road Gang Sirdars (Indians) £4 10*s.* 0*d.* up to £10 8*s.* 0*d.* per month. Average wages £7 per month.

XII.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

No alteration was made during the year in the methods of administration of Native Affairs, but a wider basis of representation of native opinion was provided by bringing into force the revised Native Regulations made by the Native Regulation Board in 1927. Under these regulations, which embody, for the most part, the recommendations of the Great Council of Chiefs, the constitutions of the Great Council of Chiefs and of District and Provincial Councils were amended. The District Councils, which are purely native Councils under the direction of the Chief of the District, have power to make regulations, subject to the approval of the Governor, concerning the health, good government and prosperity of their respective districts and of electing representatives to the Provincial Councils. The Provincial Councils which are under the direction of the Secretary for Native Affairs, or such officer as may be appointed by the Governor, have similar powers with regard to their respective Provinces and have also the power of electing representatives to the Great Council of Chiefs. The constitution of the Great Council of Chiefs, which meets every two years and which advises the Governor on all matters pertaining to the welfare and progress of the Fijians and also nominates Chiefs from whom the Governor selects the Fijian representatives to the Legislative Council, was amended by the reduction of the number of official members and the admission of representatives selected by the Provincial Councils. All selected and nominated members of the Council hold office for three years.

The amendments made in the constitutions of these Councils provide the necessary links between the natives and the Government to ensure an adequate representation of the wishes and opinions of the natives throughout the Colony. The powers conferred upon these Councils provide the Fijian with a very large measure of self-government.

All offences against the provisions of the Native Regulations are tried by specially constituted Courts. Minor infringements are dealt with by Native Stipendiary Magistrates in District Courts, from which appeal lies to the European Magistrate of the District. All graver offences are dealt with in the Provincial Courts in which a European District Commissioner and a Native Stipendiary Magistrate jointly preside. Appeal lies from the Provincial Court to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In addition to broadening the basis of representation of native opinion, the revised Native Regulations, which were brought into force during the year, make provision for the better care of women and children and of sick persons ; for the better control of unmarried girls and of women living in industrial centres ; for the prohibition of irregular unions ; for the more effective registration of births and deaths ; and for the determination of the legitimacy of children born in wedlock. Provision is also made to ensure the safeguarding of funds collected for purposes of common benefit or private enterprise, to prohibit the unauthorised collection of money by promises of future gain, to secure a money payment in lieu of communal services from men absent from their villages for more than a year, to enforce more strictly the law for the suppression of gambling, and to ensure the maintenance of the wives and families of men absent from their villages. The revised Regulations are based upon native custom and are in accord with the wishes of the most enlightened section of the native community.

The first meeting of the Great Council of Chiefs, as newly constituted, was held in Suva in November. The Council was attended by senior native officials, chiefs nominated by the Governor, and by elected representatives from all the Provinces. The members of the Council after expressing, on behalf of the Fijian race, their undiminished loyalty to His Majesty the King, and their appreciation of the efforts being made by the Government to promote their welfare, discussed at length a wide variety of subjects appertaining to their government and well-being, and tendered their advice thereon to the Governor. The members showed a keen interest in and desire for progressive legislation and, amongst other things, advocated the establishment of an Agricultural and Technical College for the practical training of their young men ; the appointment of native members to Provincial Road Boards ; the appointment of Government agents to receive and sell native produce ; the compulsory amalgamation of small villages to ensure better sanitary conditions and a more vigorous social life ; and the prohibition of

the sorcerous practice of medicine. The deliberations of the Council indicated a desire, amongst the Fijians themselves, to relinquish such of their traditional customs of work and living as had proved to have a retarding influence upon their progress and to adopt more practical, if less picturesque, methods of attaining prosperity and of equipping themselves to face future competitive conditions. At the close of the Council the Governor presented, by command of His Majesty the King, the badge of Companion of the Imperial Service Order to Ratu Deve Toganivalu in recognition of forty years faithful service to the Government.

During the early part of the year the general health of the natives was satisfactory. In the latter part of the year there was an epidemic of influenza of an unusually severe type and a considerable incidence of measles and chicken-pox. There was also a severe drought which affected the health of the natives in the dry districts by diminishing the water supplies. These causes contributed towards a death-rate of 24.95 amongst the natives, an increase of 1.97 over that of the previous year. The birth-rate was 33.36 and the total increase for the year 765. Since the census of 1921 the Fijian race has increased by 6,553. The total native population at the close of the year was estimated at 91,028 and the total population of the Colony at 176,793, which gives an average of 23.78 per square mile. There were 906 marriages amongst the natives during the year.

Considerable progress was made during the year in providing additional medical facilities to promote the health of the people. With the generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation of the United States of America, an intensive campaign against yaws and ringworm was conducted in the Provinces of Bua and Macuata. The results of the campaign were satisfactory and showed that it is possible, by thorough and systematic treatment, to reduce the incidence of these diseases to a minimum. The smallpox vaccination campaign was continued and approximately two-thirds of the whole population have now been vaccinated. The new Central Medical School for the training of native students from all parts of the Pacific was completed and opened. At the end of the year 40 students, of whom 17 are Fijians, were in training. Additional accommodation was provided at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital for the training of native obstetric nurses and their numbers were increased from 18 to 24. The new hospital at Nadi was completed and opened, and separate wards added for the accommodation of natives. Under the established medical service, free medical and surgical treatment is provided for natives at thirteen provincial and four general hospitals and at the hands of native medical practitioners stationed throughout the Provinces. Free treatment is available to native women at the hands of 53 trained native obstetric nurses.

An orphanage for native children was built and equipped from native funds and placed under the control of the Medical Superintendent and the Matron of the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.

It is intended for the reception of infants whose mothers die at or near childbirth and for their care until they reach an age when they may safely be returned to their tribal units. The care of these infants provides valuable experience for the native nurses in training at the hospital.

Child welfare work amongst the natives, which was begun in 1927, was continued throughout the year in the Province of Tailevu under a fully qualified European nurse and in the native towns around Suva by the voluntary services of Dr. Roberts, wife of the American Consul, who was successfully engaged for some years in similar work in the mandated territory of Western Samoa. In response to the offer of the voluntary services of a Methodist Mission Sister, who is a trained nurse attached to the Matavelo Girls' School, this work was extended during the year to the Province of Ba. The work is carried out upon lines designed to promote not only the immediate health of the women and young children, but the creation of a desire amongst the natives generally to adopt, of their own volition, more hygienic conditions in which to live and bring up their children. The keen interest displayed by the women and their efforts to profit by the assistance and instruction given to them have resulted in undoubted improvement in the health of the communities in which the work is conducted. The success which has so far attended this work, due in very large measure to the devoted work of the European ladies engaged therein, has justified its extension to other Provinces. For this purpose the sum of £2,000 has been provided from General Revenue for 1929 and the very generous offer of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited to contribute £2,000 in 1929 and a further £2,000 the following year has been accepted. This money will be devoted entirely to the extension of child welfare work and to defraying the cost of a travelling European Medical Officer to supervise the work of native medical practitioners and native obstetric nurses and to effect further improvement in the sanitary conditions under which the natives live.

The Methodist and Roman Catholic Missions have intimated their intention to assist to the full extent of the means at their disposal. With their co-operation it is hoped to extend the work throughout the greater part of Viti Levu during the coming year.

The efforts being made to safeguard and promote the health of the natives receive their enthusiastic support and it is hoped, with their co-operation, to effect a steady and increasing improvement in their health and happiness.

Under the Native Regulations, Fijian children are required to attend school up to the age of fourteen years. No restrictions are placed upon the parents' choice of a school, which is only limited by geographical conditions and the capacity of the schools available. As the elementary education of the natives remains largely in the hands of the several religious bodies established in the Colony, the

parents' choice generally falls upon a school conducted by the denomination to which they belong. In most native villages the boys and girls are taught the rudiments of education by native teachers most of whom have received some training at the central Mission schools. Where conditions permit several villages join together in the establishment of a joint school, in some of which certificated teachers are employed. At many of the Mission stations there are large boarding schools conducted by a European missionary or priest assisted by Mission sisters and native teachers. From these schools many of the pupils continue their education at the central schools and training colleges operated by the Missions whose curricula include branches of technical education. A limited number of Fijian youths are trained in modern methods of agriculture at the Methodist Mission Agricultural School at Navuso. A number of the older native girls receive education and training in domestic science at the Methodist Mission Girls' School at Matavelo.

In addition to the Mission schools there are in some Provinces boarding schools controlled by the Provincial Commissioner or Roko and supported by native funds. There are also six Joint Provincial schools under direct Government control in which selected pupils from all the Provinces receive a good primary education. These schools are under the direct control of fully qualified European headmasters who are assisted by a staff of trained native teachers and manual instructors. An annual contribution is made from native funds towards the maintenance of these schools. Higher education is provided for selected pupils from the Provincial and Mission schools at the Queen Victoria Memorial School, Nasinu. Scholarships are provided for the training of promising youths outside the Colony, and four Fijians attended Wanganui Technical College, New Zealand, during the year.

A native scholarship fund was established towards the end of the year to defray, in the first instance, the cost of providing an exceptionally promising Fijian youth with a full course of training as a medical student at Otago University, New Zealand. Assistance is given by the Government to a number of primary and vernacular schools by a system of money grants which vary in amount according to the standard of education provided in the schools to which the grants are made.

The whole system of native education, including the extent to which additional revenue should be raised for the extension of educational facilities, is receiving the Government's attention. In all matters relating to the education of the natives the Missions have always played an important part and it is felt that progress can most effectively be made by assisting the Missions to improve their present organizations. For this purpose substantial grants have been approved in aid of Davuilevu School, which will be used as a training school for native teachers, and of Navuso Agricultural School. A sum of £5,000 has also been made available for grants in aid of

building, extending and equipping schools. A substantial portion of this sum will be granted to the Methodist Mission school to be built at Nasere for the education and training of Fijian girls. The establishment of a teachers' training school provides the first and most essential step towards the placing of native education upon a sound basis. The extension at the same time of technical and agricultural instruction will provide the natives with an education which will be of practical value to them in their endeavours to develop the natural resources of their lands and to raise their standard of living.

The Fijians remain essentially an agricultural people dependent for their livelihood upon the cultivation of their tribal lands. Although a considerable number of the younger men go to work on sugar or coconut estates they almost invariably return to the cultivation of their lands when the object for which they worked has been attained. Their agricultural activities are directed primarily to the planting of crops for their own food supplies. These crops consist chiefly of yams, dalo, tapioca, sweet potatoes, plantains, and bread-fruit. They are skilled agriculturists and although they generally use but the simplest instruments their planting operations are very successful.

During the latter part of the year many Provinces suffered from a severe drought, but by taking full advantage of local conditions of soil and moisture the natives successfully raised catch crops in sufficient quantity to supply their needs. The chief crops grown by the natives for profit are coconuts, bananas, sugar cane, and yaqona.

Large areas of coconut groves are owned by the natives throughout the Colony. The coconuts are used by them for the manufacture of coconut oil and copra. A considerable proportion of the copra exported from the Colony is made by the natives. A substantial improvement has been made during the year in the case of established coconut plantations and in the planting of new areas.

In the chief productive areas European Coconut Inspectors appointed by the Government have carried out a thorough and systematic campaign for the clearing up and thinning out of old coconut groves and have personally supervised the selection and planting of new areas and the manufacture of copra. The effects of this work are to reduce the incidence of disease affecting the coconut palms, to increase the yield of coconuts and to improve the quality of copra. These results besides being of direct permanent benefit to the native owners serve as a practical demonstration of the utility of adopting better methods of cultivation. The improvement in the health of the coconuts in Viti Levu and adjacent islands consequent upon the effective control of the Levuana moth has been maintained and large areas of coconuts which were formerly non-productive are now bearing well.

The restored confidence in the value of coconut palms has led to the planting of new areas by the natives. In Viti Levu alone over

3,500 acres have been planted in coconuts by the natives during the year. The impetus given to the cultivation of coconuts by the control of the Levuana disease aided by the work of the Coconut Inspectors will result in material increase in the prosperity of a very large section of the Fijians.

The major portion of the bananas exported from the Colony is grown by Fijians. Only fruit of first class quality is exported and in the maintenance of this quality the natives are assisted by European Inspectors appointed by the Government. These Inspectors supervise the weeding out and destruction of diseased plants and the planting of new areas with healthy plants. They advise the natives in the selection of suitable soils, proper methods of drainage and cultivation, and in the handling of fruit. The fruit is sold by the natives to the exporters either at their plantations or at Government packing stations.

During the year a system of granting licences to banana buyers was instituted. This system provides minimum prices for the purchase of bananas, the prices varying according to the time of the year. It also ensures a steady market throughout the year for all good quality fruit grown by the natives in the areas over which licences are granted. The provision of known minimum prices and of an assured market should effect an increase in the large income annually derived by the natives from the production of bananas.

The cultivation of sugar cane, which is mainly in the hands of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company and of Indian planters, is gradually being adopted by Fijians. The quantity of sugar cane grown by the natives is not great, but it is steadily increasing. In one small district 1,664 tons of sugar cane was grown by the natives. As the cultivation of sugar cane necessitates the use of horses and bullocks and of agricultural machinery, hitherto largely untried by the natives, the successful adoption of their use augurs well for the development of more scientific methods of agriculture amongst the Fijians.

As the result of experiments conducted at the Government cotton farm at Sigatoka a variety of cotton has been produced which appears to be admirably suited to local conditions. This variety is more hardy and has a much heavier yield than the Sea Island cotton which has been grown during the past few years. As it can be used more extensively than the Sea Island variety there is likely to be a steadier sale for it in the world's markets. It is as yet too early to gauge the extent to which this cotton can profitably be grown but it is hoped that it will in the near future provide the Fijians, more especially in the inland districts where difficulties of transport preclude the cultivation of heavier crops, with a profitable industry admirably suited to their social system.

The question of the preservation and management of the large areas of forest land, most of which are owned by the Fijians, has

been advanced during the past year. The report on the forests of the Colony, submitted by an officer of the Federated Malay States Forestry Service, indicates that they are of great potential value and that it is advisable to take steps to preserve, extend, and develop them. In consequence of this report it has been decided to secure the services of a qualified Forestry Officer who will explore the forest lands of the Colony and acquire information and experience on which a definite scheme of forestry can be based. The adoption of a scientific forestry policy will preserve to the natives a valuable heritage and should prove of ultimate benefit to the Colony as a whole.

Apart from their agricultural pursuits many of the better educated Fijians occupy administrative and clerical positions in the Government Service. Some have qualified as Native Medical Practitioners and others as Native Stipendiary Magistrates. A few own and conduct their own stores and a considerable number earn their living as masters, engineers, or seamen on inter-insular vessels or as carpenters and artisans. There is abundant evidence of an increasing desire among the younger Fijians to acquire education and training in order to fit themselves to take an active part in all branches of industry in the Colony. The success which has so far attended their efforts holds out encouraging hopes for the future prosperity of the race.

XIII.—INDIAN AFFAIRS.

The vital statistics given elsewhere show a further increase of 1,533 in the Indian population. The birth-rate rose from 27.72 to 34.20 per thousand, and the death-rate from 9.42 to 10.80. There has been a gradual rise in the death-rate from the very low rates reported some six or seven years ago. Judging from older records a death-rate of from 10 to 12 per thousand does not appear abnormal. There can be little doubt that deaths were not fully reported during the first few years after the abolition of indentures. The number of marriages registered is increasing steadily, though it has not yet reached the level of the years before the introduction of the present Marriage Ordinance. It is the intention of the Government to introduce and to pass at an early date an Ordinance to amend the existing Marriage Ordinance. The coming into force of this measure will, so far as can reasonably be anticipated, make the year 1929 an important one in the history of the social relations existing in the Indian community. Marriages by Indian rites have long been recognised in the Colony provided certain formalities have been complied with. But actually few of these "customary" marriages have been legalised hitherto. The amending Ordinance which has the cordial support of the enlightened classes will make it illegal to go through the ceremony of marriage according to Indian rites without complying with the formalities prescribed by law. It remains to be seen whether compulsory registration will improve

social relations to as great an extent as is hoped and anticipated. It appears evident that in Fiji absence of caste control, continued disparity in the numbers of the two sexes, and the existence of doubt whether a Colonial marriage will be recognised in India by the castes to which the parties belong, have discredited the marriage according to Hindu rites. The practice of performing an ostensibly binding ceremony before maturity has continued, and this often results in the handing over of the bride at a later date. In numerous cases, however, this early union is dissolved, and the parties seek other alliances which may or may not be legalised. The detrimental practice of insisting on the bridegroom living in the bride's house and of subsequently expelling him in favour of a second suitor if he proves troublesome is still not unknown. That social relations were unsatisfactory was the unanimous opinion of the Indian societies which made representations to the Commission which drew up the amending Ordinance. The present confusion is a fertile source of quarrels and litigation.

The great majority of registered marriages are technically marriages before the official registrar and in numerous cases are between men of mature age and girls over the age of 15. In a considerable percentage of these cases the girl has in all probability been married already to another partner and the object of the Court marriage is finally to dissolve the early irregular union.

Efforts are being made to facilitate compliance with the amended law, but traditional habits are hard to eradicate. They have their origin in the desire of parents to settle their daughter's future before she can be led astray and are blindly followed in spite of their evil results under Colonial conditions. A further raising of the age for the binding ceremony seems the obvious solution of the problem. This is already being advocated by reformers, but it will clearly be necessary for them to make strenuous efforts to educate the community up to the desired standard if the change is to be introduced without risk of friction and further confusion.

The question is being taken up of further adaptation to the needs of the Indian community of the law relating to marital relations. Amendments to the law of guardianship and that affecting the protection of minor girls are also under consideration.

The Indian population is mainly centred in the sugar-producing tracts and in Suva and its suburbs. Allowing for increases and movements since the census of 1921 approximate numbers by districts are :—in Ba, Nadi, and Macuata 8,000 to 10,000 each ; Suva and suburbs, 7,000 ; Rewa, 7,000 ; Lautoka, 5,000 ; Ra, Colo North, Nadroga, and Navua, 3,000 to 4,000 each ; with some smaller rice-producing settlements.

The great bulk of the population have developed from a condition of plantation labourers into a body of small farmers. More than two-thirds of the sugar area is in the hands of this class and the

area retained by the Company is decreasing. Practically the whole of the area producing rice, maize, cotton, and arhar dal is held by Indian farmers.

Accurate figures of the total area held are not available, but, excluding some 25,000 acres held from the Sugar Company, the total of holdings of all sorts may be put at approximately 7,500. Of the new leases of Fijian lands sanctioned during the year about 200 were to Indians.

According to the returns the number of Indian traders and storekeepers rose last year from 1,117 to 1,517. Returns at present do not distinguish between renewals and fresh licences. 434 motor-cars are owned by Indians against 409 in 1927, and drivers' licences have increased from 716 to 1,554. The great bulk of the road carrying business is in Indian hands and, with the improvement in roads, lorry omnibus services are developing in the Suva-Rewa area and on the north-west coast of Vitilevu. Drivers' licences increased by over 400 in the Suva-Rewa area alone. Many licences are taken out for the purpose of occasional driving.

In spite of a somewhat prolonged dry spell in the latter half of the year the harvests of crops in which Indians are interested were not unfavourable. The recently developed Penang sugar tract was fortunate enough to enjoy a good harvest of cane with a very good sugar content.

Some damage to young cane was caused by the drought, but this was nowhere serious.

The rice harvest was fair everywhere and distinctly good in some areas. The drought seems to have had the effect of improving some of the wetter rice areas which receive in normal times insufficient seration. Prospects for the current year's crop appear at present very favourable. In spite of some fluctuations there seem good prospects of the cotton industry becoming established as an important factor in Indian agriculture outside the sugar area, though much will depend on the success of the new variety which is now the subject of experiment. A development which may prove of importance to Indian interests is the establishment of two factories for the canning of pineapples.

The question whether the present provisions of the Municipalities Ordinance affected Indian representation adversely was the subject of an enquiry by a Committee appointed by the Governor during the year. This Committee presented majority and minority reports and a Commission was appointed to enquire into certain allegations of unequal treatment made on one of the minority reports.

The revised Letters Patent providing for the election of three Indian members to the Legislative Council were received after the close of the year.

As will be seen from the educational section of this report the number of Indian schools established or assisted by Government

has risen from 22 to 32 and the number of pupils in these from 1,680 to 2,530. Progress was made during the year in the task of revising the existing Education Ordinance largely with a view to improving the facilities for Indian education. It is the intention of the Government to introduce the amending Ordinance early in 1929, and a Rating Ordinance which will enable educational rates to be levied is in process of being drafted.

Meanwhile present conditions have been examined in detail and a programme for the establishment of Government schools for Indians has been drawn up. Existing provision for educational needs largely remains in private hands. Much interest and activity is displayed and a number of schools receive generous support from private individuals. But efforts are unfortunately apt to be unsystematic and lacking in co-ordination and the school too often becomes the battlefield of sectional quarrels and personal disputes. Efforts will have to be made in the immediate future to have the constitution of controlling bodies of assisted schools at least placed on a more satisfactory footing. Compromise and a determination to work for the common good will be essential if the very laudable efforts made to promote educational progress during the period when financial stringency left the task of Indian education largely in private hands are not to be frustrated.

Owing to the arrival in December of the s.s. *Sutlej* for the repatriation voyage of 1929, repatriation arrangements had to be made on two occasions during the year.

This vessel arrived for the first time on 12th April with 781 persons on board. Of these 350 (134 men, 91 women, 67 boys, and 58 girls) belonged to families of re-emigrants who had previously been in Fiji and these were brought out at the expense of the Fiji Government. This experiment was undertaken at the suggestion of the Government of India owing to reports that a number of Fiji repatriates in Calcutta were clamouring for assistance to return to the Colony. Unfortunately the officer deputed to India to make arrangements was unable to do more than make a selection from the repatriates in Calcutta. According to information received which has since been confirmed by the Honourable Badri Mahraj, a Nominated Member of the Fiji Legislative Council, on his return from a visit to his home in the United Provinces, considerable numbers of repatriates in up-country districts would have welcomed assistance to re-emigrate. Mr. Badri Mahraj was especially invited by a delegation to visit the Basti district and found there numbers of repatriates eager to get back to Fiji.

Except for a few persons from up-country who had managed to find their way to Calcutta the bulk of the re-immigrants were repatriates who had been unable to return to their homes and were working in Calcutta docks. The re-emigrants on arrival in Fiji

were absorbed at once into the population. The majority found their way to the sugar areas, and there can be little doubt that the demand for repatriation later in the year was largely due to the stories spread by them of their experiences in India after years spent in a foreign country. The proportion of women and children to the total number of re-emigrants was satisfactory and it is interesting to note that several gave as their reason for return that conditions of life in Fiji were so much easier and the climate was so much healthier for children. One effect of this experiment has been that the second repatriation list included some 30 or 40 men who were availing themselves of the repatriation concession to visit their homes, but who left their families behind settled on their farms and who took out passports to ensure their easy return. The experiment was financed from the accumulated balance of the old Immigration Fund which has not been utilised since organised immigration ceased.

The arrivals in April also included as paying passengers a batch of 206 immigrants from the Eastern Punjab and some 179 Bombay traders.

The *Sutlej* sailed again on 21st April with 973 persons on board including 49 paying passengers. The number of the repatriates reckoned as "statute adults" fell short of the complement contracted for by 66½. There was no rush for repatriation and in several districts less than half of the original offers of berths made to those who had registered for repatriation were taken up.

Deposits for remittance to Calcutta amounted to £27,108 or £42 per adult. An attempt to assist repatriates to get their savings remitted to their districts of destination to obviate risk of loss on the journey did not prove successful. Repatriates are afraid of difficulties over drawing the money once they leave the protection of those known to them, and are cautious about appearing in their homes with considerable sums to their credit. The repatriates included 13 lepers, 49 invalids, and 68 persons classed as paupers having declared themselves to be possessed of less than £5 in cash or jewellery.

The vessel sailed with a clean bill of health, but measles broke out during the voyage and 9 cases occurred. There was 1 death from dysentery.

The *Sutlej* arrived for the second time on the last day of the year with 783 paying passengers on board, a record number in the history of immigration to Fiji. Of these 462 came from the Eastern Punjab. These were mainly Jat Sikhs from the Nawashahar sub-division of the Jullundar district. There are indications of these Punjabi immigrants becoming an important element in the Indian community in Fiji. The numbers of this class arriving by each of the last three repatriation vessels have been 95, 206 and 462 respectively.

They are enterprising colonists and are doing well both in the sugar areas and elsewhere, but at present the immigrants are mainly young men belonging to families of petty proprietors immigrating to improve their fortunes and it remains to be seen whether they will develop family immigration. Otherwise their advent will have a disturbing effect on the sex proportion of the Indian community, which has been progressively improving. Of the other immigrants, 237 were Bombay (mostly Gujarati) traders, jewellers, shoemakers, tailors, and the like. 56 of the immigrants came from the United Provinces and 27 from Madras, including a fair number who had been in Fiji before.

The account of arrangements for the return voyage of January, 1929, will form part of the annual report for 1929, but it may be mentioned here that it proved exceptionally difficult to find sufficient repatriates to fill the vessel which had actually to sail with only 546 repatriates on board and 107 paying passengers, a decrease of 378 in the number of persons exercising the right of repatriation at the expense of the Government. This very marked decrease may have been partly due to the short interval between the two voyages, but there can be little doubt that the return of the re-emigrants in 1928 had a great effect in convincing Indian colonists in Fiji that repatriation is an adventure not lightly to be undertaken.

XIV.—METEOROLOGICAL.

Pressure.—The mean pressure for the year taken at 20.30 and 03.30 Greenwich Mean Time and reduced to 32° Fahr. 45 degrees Lat. and Mean Sea-Level was 29.867" ; the highest recorded being 30.130" on 10th August, and the lowest 29.583" on 14th and 15th January.

The following table gives the mean pressure for each month of the year, together with the highest and lowest readings and the dates of their occurrences :—

<i>Months.</i>		<i>Monthly Means.</i>	<i>Highest Recorded.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Lowest Recorded.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
January	... ..	29.736"	29.879"	2nd	29.583"	14th and 15th.
February	... ..	29.817"	29.953"	8th	29.652"	1st.
March...	... ..	29.783"	29.974"	24th.	29.601"	18th.
April ...	... ..	29.864"	30.003"	28th.	29.737"	3rd.
May ...	... ..	29.877"	29.976"	4th.	29.706"	25th.
June ...	... ..	29.918"	30.029"	6th.	29.769"	10th.
July ...	... ..	29.894"	30.040"	13th.	29.641"	20th.
August	... ..	29.996"	30.130"	10th.	29.815"	26th.
September	... ..	29.940"	30.069"	19th.	29.786"	4th.
October	... ..	29.902"	30.064"	11th.	29.785"	24th.
November	... ..	29.886"	30.030"	3rd.	29.685"	21st.
December	... ..	29.783"	29.893"	2nd.	29.709"	13th.

Air Shade Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 77.5° Fahr., the highest recorded being 94° on 1st January, and the lowest 62° on 24th July.

Humidity.—The mean percentage of relative humidity for the year was 77, the greatest, namely 100 per cent., being recorded on the 28th February and 19th December. The lowest recorded was 44 per cent. on 1st November. Humidity of 44 per cent. is exceptionally low for the tropics. A drought was experienced in Fiji generally from the last few days in May up to 13th December, when the drought broke definitely. Conditions with regard to the water supply were at times acute.

The following table gives the mean monthly temperature and absolute highest and lowest temperatures, and the dates of their registration, together with the mean percentage of relative humidity, and the highest and lowest recorded, together with the dates of their occurrences during each month of the year.

<i>Months.</i>	<i>Temperature in Shade.</i>					<i>Humidity—(Saturation=100).</i>				
	<i>Mean.</i>	<i>High- est.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Low- est.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Mean.</i>	<i>High- est.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Low- est.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
January...	81.6°	94°	1	72°	17, 22	% 75.6	% 95		% 59	21, 22
February	80.2°	91°	27	71°	4	79.8	100	28	60	12
March ...	81.3°	92°	13	73°	28, 31	82.6	99	1	56	11
April ...	78.5°	86°	27	72°	13, 21 22, 30	86.3	95	11, 25	67	20
May ...	77.5°	87°	7, 17, 28	68°	7	83.2	96	11	66	30
June ...	74.5°	86°	10	63°	15	74.0	98	20	58	5, 8
July ...	73.4°	85°	3, 30	62°	24	73.8	97	2, 9	55	17
August	73.0°	84°	1, 7	64°	18	77.4	97	8	49	31
September	76.1°	90°	4	65°	1	74.1	96	13	55	1
October...	77.2°	92°	31	67°	11, 25	70.4	93	2	47	9
November	76.2°	85°	1, 2	65°	8	69.9	96	17	44	1
December	80.6°	91°	26	71°	2, 3	77.2	100	19	60	7

Rainfall, Winds, etc.—The table on page 65 gives the rainfall for 1928 at Suva, together with the number of wind observations, hail-storms, thunderstorms, gales, &c., for each month of the year. The total amount of rainfall for October, viz., 1.57 inches, during the period of drought, is 6.71 inches below normal. This, however, does not constitute the least amount of rain ever recorded for October, 0.51 being recorded in the year 1884.

The following tables give the rainfall at different stations in the wet and dry districts of Fiji for the year 1928, together

with the average rainfall over a period of years as stated in the first Column in each Table.

Wet Districts.

<i>No. of years.</i>	<i>Station.</i>	<i>Province.</i>	<i>Average yearly rainfall.</i>	<i>Rainfall 1928.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
49	Wainunu	Bua	148.54	117.34
22	Valeci	Cakandrove	102.78	91.79
9	Vuna	"	116.89	98.23
22	Waiyevo	"	98.96	104.48
24	Rabi	"	143.79	115.55
16	Vunidawa	Colo East	142.19	136.44
28	Nadarivatu... ..	Colo North... ..	128.81	106.62
12	Naitonitoni... ..	Serua	129.13	117.66
3	Wainivesi	Tailevu	164.40	—
34	Nausori	"	114.50	128.49
24	Rotuma	Rotuma	138.90	131.48
2	Navuso	Naitasiri	122.68	126.43
44	Suva	Rewa	117.02	113.83
12	Buca Bay	Cakandrove	95.72	—
34	Levuka	Lomaiviti	91.08	66.53
1	Devo	Cakandrove	—	99.90
9	Mua... ..	"	108.90	94.94
11	Nabawalu	Bua	105.84	104.48
11	Salialevu	Cakandrove	213.20	—

Dry Districts.

<i>No. of years.</i>	<i>Station.</i>	<i>Province.</i>	<i>Average yearly rainfall.</i>	<i>Rainfall 1928.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
34	Rarawai	Ba	81.78	78.77
28	Lautoka	Ba	68.34	62.25
33	Munia	Lau	70.09	72.98
5	Nabavatu	"	77.60	—
5	Lakeba	"	78.91	99.97
27	Navo	Nadi	64.25	69.42
15	Richmond	Kadavu	67.46	64.94
22	Lawaqa	Nadroga	69.02	85.29
13	Makogai	Lomaiviti	81.63	—
1	Gau	"	70.10	70.10
44	Penang	Ra	81.90	88.61
2	Sigatoka Cotton Stn.	Nadroga	76.26	78.03
34	Labasa	Macuata	81.49	76.32

Thus the wet district average is 126.73" and the dry 77.24", but it must be taken into consideration that the heaviest rainfall takes place during the hurricane season, viz., November to April, both

[illegible]

inclusive. During these months the precipitation in 1927 was 62 per cent. of the total rainfall for the year. For the dry district the heaviest rainfall is also within the same period, but the proportion of the total precipitation is greater, being in 1927 equal to 72 per cent. of the annual fall. It will be readily seen, therefore, that the difference between the seasons is much more distinctly marked in the dry district, with the consequence that the planters vary considerably their methods of cultivation in the two districts.

XV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

During the year 1928 forty-nine Ordinances were passed. Several of these were minor amending Ordinances. The principal Ordinances of public interest are :—

The Pensions Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 9 provides for the pensions of public officers and is on the lines of legislation recently passed in other Crown Colonies. The majority of the Colonies have been scheduled by Fiji.

The Copra (Amendment) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 16 forbids the purchase of green copra in certain areas by unlicensed persons. Licences to purchase green copra may be issued to licensees who satisfy the Superintendent of Agriculture that they have established proper plant for drying copra.

The Drugs and Poisons (Amendment) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 17 regulates the import, export, transit, and diversion of opiates.

The Marriage (Amendment) Ordinance.—Ordinance No. 27 provides for the registration of Indian Customary Marriages.

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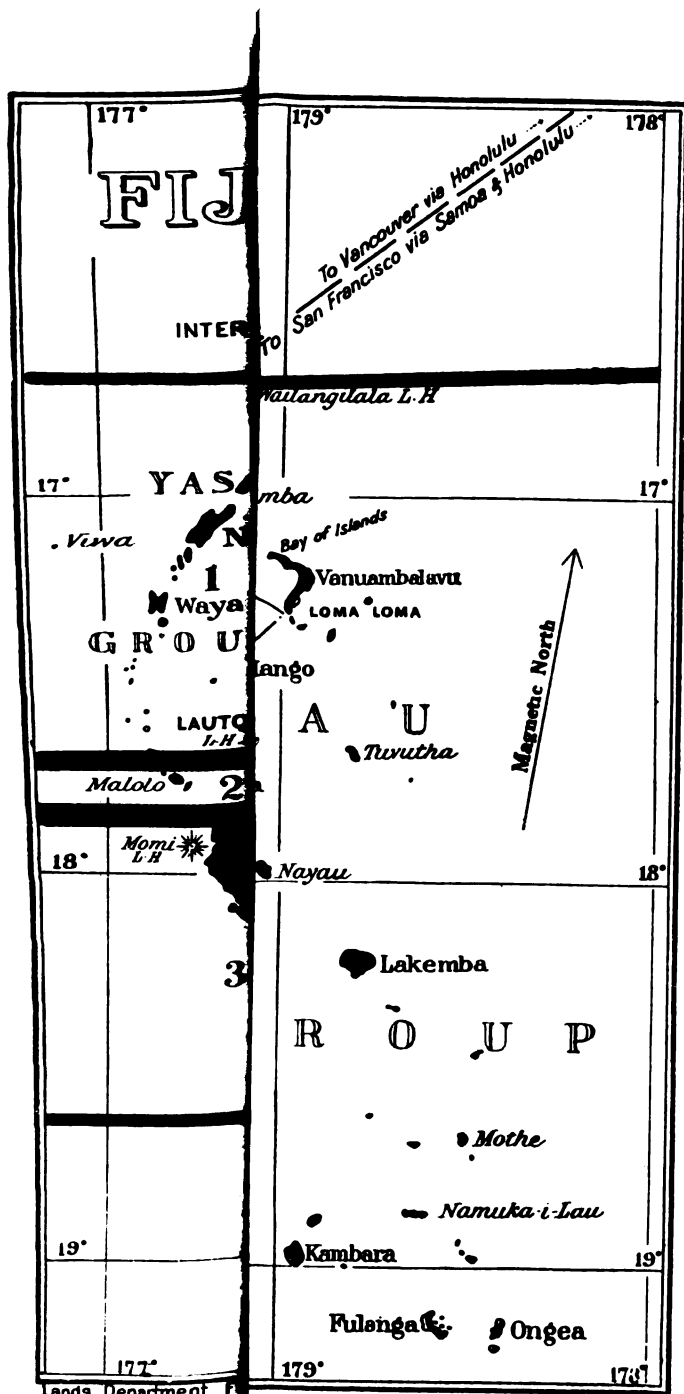
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFATORY NOTE—	
A.—Geography 	1
B.—History 	4
C.—Principal Languages 	6
D.—Currency 	7
E.—Weights and Measures 	8
I.—GENERAL 	9
II.—FINANCE 	11
III.—PRODUCTION 	20
IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS 	26
V.—COMMUNICATIONS 	35
VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS 	40
VII.—PUBLIC WORKS 	42
VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH 	43
IX.—EDUCATION 	46
X.—LANDS AND SURVEY 	49
XI.—LABOUR 	53
XII.—MISCELLANEOUS 	55

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COLONY OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1928.

Prefatory Note

A.—GEOGRAPHY

The Straits Settlements, comprising at that time Singapore, Penang and Malacca, were transferred from the control of the Indian Government to that of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st April, 1867, by an Order in Council, issued under the authority of an Act of the Imperial Parliament (29 and 30 Vict. c. 115).

The seat of Government is the town of Singapore, at the southern point of the island, in latitude $1^{\circ} 17'$ north, and longitude $103^{\circ} 50'$ east.

SINGAPORE

Singapore is an island about 27 miles long by 14 wide, containing an area of 217 square miles. It is separated from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula by a narrow strait about three-quarters of a mile in width, across which a causeway for road and railway has now been built. There are a number of small islands adjacent to Singapore and forming part of the Settlement, which also comprises Christmas Island and the Cocos Islands.

COCOS OR KEELING ISLANDS

The Cocos or Keeling Islands, which were declared a British possession in 1857, were placed, by Letters Patent of 13th October, 1878, under the control of the Governor of Ceylon, and by Letters Patent dated the 1st of February, 1886, under the Governor of the Straits Settlements. In 1903, they were annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore. The islands lie between latitude $11^{\circ} 50'$ and $12^{\circ} 45'$ south, and in longitude approximately $96^{\circ} 50'$ east, 700 miles south-west of Batavia. The largest is 5 miles by $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. There are large coconut plantations, and copra, oil, and nuts are exported. In 1902 a station on the Cape-Australia cable route was established on Direction Island, in the north-eastern part of the group. The population numbers about 795.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Christmas Island, situated in the Indian Ocean, 190 miles south of Java, latitude $10^{\circ} 30'$ south, longitude $105^{\circ} 40'$ east, was annexed in June, 1888, and placed under the administration of the Governor of the Straits Settlements

by Letters Patent of 8th January, 1889. In 1900 it was annexed to the Straits Settlements and incorporated with the Settlement of Singapore.

The island, which is densely wooded, has an area of about 62 square miles. In shape it is a rough parallelogram, with deeply indented sides, its greatest length being about 12 miles, and its greatest breadth about 9 miles. The inhabitants, who number about 1,100, are all, with the exception of the District Officer and his staff, employees of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, formed in 1897 to work the extensive deposits of phosphate of lime, to which the island owes its importance.

LABUAN

By Letters Patent issued at the end of 1906, provision was made for the incorporation of the Colony of Labuan in that of the Straits Settlements. The provision came into effect from the 1st of January, 1907. It became a separate Settlement in 1912.

The Island of Labuan is situated on the north-west coast of Borneo. Its area is 28·6 square miles. It is distant from the coast, at the nearest point, about six miles; from Brunei, the capital of the Protected State of that name, about forty miles; and from Singapore 725 miles.

Labuan has a fine port, Victoria Harbour (latitude $5^{\circ} 16'$ north, longitude $115^{\circ} 15'$ east), safe, and easy of access.

PENANG

Penang is an island about 15 miles long and 9 broad, containing an area of 108 square miles. It is situated off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, at the northern extremity of the Straits of Malacca. On the opposite shore of the mainland, from which the island is separated by a strait from 2 to 10 miles broad, is Province Wellesley, a strip of territory forming part of the Settlement, averaging 8 miles in width, and extending 45 miles along the coast, the whole containing an area of 280 square miles.

The chief town is George Town, in $5^{\circ} 24'$ north latitude, and $100^{\circ} 21'$ east longitude.

THE DINDINGS

The Dindings, area about 183 square miles, include the island of Pangkor and a strip of territory opposite on the mainland, about 80 miles from Penang. Lumut (latitude $4^{\circ} 15'$ north and longitude $100^{\circ} 35'$ east), the headquarters on the mainland, possesses a harbour with deep anchorage, and coasting steamers call regularly.

MALACCA

Malacca is situated on the western coast of the Peninsula between Singapore and Penang, about 110 miles from the former and 240 from the latter, and consists of a strip of territory about 42 miles in length, and from 8 to 25 miles in breadth, containing an area of 720 square miles. The town of Malacca is in $2^{\circ} 10'$ north latitude, and $102^{\circ} 14'$ east longitude.

TOTAL AREA

The total area of the Colony and dependencies is about 1,600 square miles.

CLIMATE

The climate varies but little during the year. The mean temperature in Singapore during 1928 was 79.7° F; in Penang 83.4° F; in Province Wellesley 80.5° F; in Malacca 81.3° F; and in Labuan 80° F.

The mean maximum and minimum temperatures vary between 87.3° and 74.4° F. In Singapore the maximum recorded was 91.8° F. on the 27th September and the 31st May. The minimum was 70.5° F. on the 2nd February. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in Penang vary between 92.6° and 71.6° F. The maximum recorded was 97.5° F. on the 13th February, 1928. The minimum was 67.5° F. on the 23rd October, 1928.

There are no well-marked rainy and dry seasons, the rainfall being fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. From carefully kept records of observations for a period of 10 years, from 1919 to 1928, it is found in Singapore that there is an annual average of 178 wet days; the average rainfall for the same period is 98.42 inches. In Singapore rainfall has been recorded regularly since 1862. The wettest year was 1914, with 135.52 inches, and the driest was 1877 with 58.37 inches. In Penang the average annual rainfall of the last three years is 178 wet days and the average rainfall for the same period is 99.0 inches. The actual number of wet days in Penang in 1928 was 169 and the rainfall 87.91 inches. In Labuan the average annual rainfall is about 136.26 inches.

The force of the monsoons is not much felt, though the prevailing winds are generally in the direction of the monsoon blowing at the time *viz*:—S.W. from May to October, N.E. from November to April. But it is not unusual to have south-east or south-west winds for portions of the day as early as March or April.

The rainfall recorded was as follows:—

	1927	1928
	—	—
Singapore ...	101·43 inches	109·25 inches.
Penang ...	89·61 „	87·91 „
Malacca ...	103·30 „	123·25 „
Province Wellesley	102·01 „	81·57 „
Labuan ...	141·01 „	128·74 „
Dindings ...	58·73 „	95·02 „

B. —HISTORY

MALACCA

Malacca appears to have been founded as early as the middle of the thirteenth century, but did not rise to importance till more than a hundred years later when a crowd of fugitives arrived from Singapore after its sack by the Javanese. About 1409 Islam, which was wrecking the Hindu kingdoms of the Archipelago, consolidated this little Malay principality of many races and it became a centre of Malay trade and Muhammadanism.

It is one of the oldest European Settlements in the east, having been captured by the Portuguese under ALBUQUERQUE in 1511, and held by them till 1641, when the Dutch, after frequent attempts, succeeded in driving them out. The Settlement remained in the possession of the Dutch till 1795, when acting as the protectors of Dutch rights usurped by NAPOLEON the English occupied it. In 1818 it was restored to Holland, but was finally transferred to British rule by the Treaty of London (17th March, 1824), being exchanged for the British Settlements in Sumatra.

Under Malay and Portuguese rule Malacca was one of the grand entrepôts for the commerce of the east. But, when the Dutch pushed their commercial operations in Java and the Malay Archipelago, its importance gradually declined and it ceased to be of consequence as a collecting centre, except for the trade of the Malay Peninsula and the Island of Sumatra. This trade it retained under Dutch rule till the founding of Penang by FRANCIS LIGHT in 1786. In a few years from that date its trade almost ceased, and it became, what it has ever since been, a place of little commercial importance, but possessing great agricultural resources.

PENANG

The earliest British Settlement in the Malay Peninsula was Penang, or Prince of Wales' Island, which was ceded in 1786 to the East India Company by the Raja of Kedah, who stipulated that the sum of \$6,000 should be paid to Kedah annually so long as the British occupied it. In 1800, owing to the prevalence of piracy, a strip of the coast of the mainland, now called Province Wellesley, was also acquired from the Raja of Kedah, the annual payment being increased to \$10,000. This Province has been enlarged from time to time, until it extends now from the Muda River to ten miles south of the Krian River. It is highly cultivated with rice, coconuts and rubber.

In 1805 Penang was made a separate Presidency, of equal rank with Madras and Bombay. In 1826 Singapore and Malacca were incorporated with it under one Government, Penang still remaining the seat of Government. In 1836 the seat of Government was transferred to Singapore.

With the establishment of Penang the trade of Malacca passed to it. But no sooner was Singapore founded than Penang in its turn had to yield the first place to that more central port, and came to depend chiefly on the local trade. At first inconsiderable, that trade has become large and important owing to the development of tin-mining and rubber planting in the adjacent Malay States.

The island of Pangkor and the Sembilan Islands were ceded to Great Britain by Perak in 1826, for the suppression of piracy. In 1874 the cession was confirmed by the Treaty of Pangkor, by which a strip of territory in the mainland opposite also became British. The whole now forms, under the name of the Dindings Territory, an outlying portion of the Settlement of Penang.

SINGAPORE

Originally, it is surmised, a Colony of the Malay Buddhist Kingdom, Palembang or Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra, the ancient settlement of Singapore was a city (*pura*) colonised by people under Indian influence. Possibly before historical times it had been a Mon-Khmer settlement. Just before A. D. 1365 it was destroyed by the Javanese empire of Majapahit. Though in 1552 it was still a port of call from which Saint FRANCIS XAVIER despatched letters to Goa, yet from the fourteenth century it was little more than a fishing village until on the 6th February, 1819, Sir STAMFORD RAFFLES founded a settlement on it by virtue of a treaty with the Johore princes, and later acquired a title for the whole island. The new Settlement was at first subordinate to Bencoolen (Fort Marlborough) in Sumatra, but in 1823,

it was placed under the Government of Bengal; in 1826 it was, as above stated, united with Penang and Malacca, under the Governor and Council of the Incorporated Settlements.

LABUAN

An attempt was made by the East India Company's servants, who were expelled from Balambangan by Sulu pirates in 1775, to establish a trading station in Labuan, but the project was soon abandoned. In 1846 the uninhabited island was ceded to Great Britain by the Sultan of Brunei because it was "desirable that British ships shall have some port where they may careen and refit, and deposit such stores and merchandise as shall be necessary for the carrying on of the trade with the dominions of Brunei," and the consideration given was an undertaking to suppress piracy and protect lawful trade.

The island was at first occupied only as a naval station. From 1848 until the end of 1889 it was governed as a separate Crown Colony. Until 1869 it was assisted by grants-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer, but this help was then withdrawn, and the Colony supported itself, though with difficulty. In 1889 its financial troubles came to a head, and, as it was thought that the island could be more economically governed in connection with the territories of the British North Borneo Company, the administration was entrusted, from the 1st January, 1890, to the care of that Company, whose principal representative in Borneo was given a commission as Governor of Labuan. At the end of 1905, the Governor of the Straits Settlements was appointed also Governor of Labuan, the island still remaining a separate Colony. On the 1st of January, 1907, it was annexed to the Straits Settlements, and declared part of the Settlement of Singapore. On the 1st of December, 1912, it was constituted a separate Settlement.

C.—PRINCIPAL LANGUAGES

Malay is the language of the Malays of the Colony. Moreover Muslim traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English have all used and spread it as a *lingua franca*. though to-day it shows signs of being superseded by English as the language of commerce. It belongs to the Austronesian family which covers an area from Formosa to New Zealand and from Madagascar to Easter Island. To the western branch of this family belong Malay as well as the languages of such immigrants to the Straits Settlements as the Bugis from the Celebes, Sundanese, Madurese and Javanese, and the Minangkabau people of Sumatra. Even within this western branch, however, languages differ more widely than English from Dutch or French from Italian. With Islam

the Malays adopted the Persian form of the Arabic alphabet but there is a growing literature in romanised script.

The Chinese languages spoken in the Straits Settlements are those of the districts in the south of China, principally in the Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces, from which the immigration is almost entirely drawn. They are divided into Hokkien, (Amoy, Chiangchiu and Chuanchiu districts), spoken by about 44.4% of the total Chinese population of the Colony; Cantonese, 23.4%; Tiochiu, 15.4%; Hakka, 7.6%; Hailam, 6%; Foochow, 1.6%; Hokchhia, .8%; Henghua, .4%; and Shanghai and other northern dialects, 4%.

The Indian population of the Straits Settlements at the last census was 104,628, of whom 96,835 or 92 per cent were Southern Indians.

There has been an increase of some ten per cent in the Indian population since 1921, but the relative proportions of the various elements remain the same. Of the Southern Indians, who form the bulk of the Indian population, practically all speak one or other of the Dravidian languages, *i.e.*, Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Canarese. The vast majority (about 94 per cent) speak Tamil and of the remainder the Telugus slightly outnumber the Malayalis, while the number of Canarese is negligible.

Three quarters of the remaining Indian population of the Colony consist of Northern Indians, whose principal languages are Punjabi, Bengali and Hindustani. The balance comprises a few hundreds from the Bombay Presidency, who speak Gujerati and Mahrati, and also a few hundred Burmese.

(D).—CURRENCY

The standard coin of the Colony is the Straits Settlements silver dollar. This and the half-dollar (silver) are unlimited legal tender. There are subsidiary silver coins of the denominations of 20 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents. There is also a nickel coin of 5 cents denomination. These subsidiary coins are legal tender to the amount of two dollars. There are copper coins of the denominations of 1 cent, $\frac{1}{2}$ cent and $\frac{1}{4}$ cent, but there is now practically no circulation of coins of the latter two denominations. Copper coin is legal tender up to one dollar. Currency notes are issued by the Colony in the denominations of \$10,000, \$1,000, \$100, \$50, \$10, \$5, and \$1. Notes of the first two denominations are used mainly for the bankers' clearances.

During the War and for some years after notes of the denominations of 25 cents and 10 cents were issued. These notes are no longer issued, but a fair quantity of them still remain in circulation.

In 1906 the Currency Commissioners were empowered to issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of \$60 for £7, and by order of the King in Council gold sovereigns were declared legal tender at this rate, the sterling value of the dollar being thus fixed at 2s. 4d. Gold, however, has never been in active circulation in the Colony.

The Currency Commissioners may accept sterling in London for dollars issued by them in Singapore at a fixed rate of 2s. 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. to the dollar, and, *vice versa*, may receive dollars in Singapore in exchange for sterling sold in London at the rate 2s. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to the dollar. The exchange fluctuations in the value of the dollar may therefore vary between these two limits.

E.—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard measures recognised by the laws of the Colony are as follows:—

- (a) Standard of Extension, the Imperial yard.
- (b) Standard of Weight, the Imperial pound.
- (c) Standard of Capacity, the Imperial gallon.

Among the Asiatic commercial and trading classes, Chinese Steelyards (called “Dachings”) of various sizes are generally employed for weighing purposes.

The undermentioned statement shows the principal measures used by these classes with their relation to English standards:—

<i>Local term</i>	<i>Relation to English standard</i>
—	—
The chupah	equals 1 quart.
The gantang	equals 1 gallon.
The tahl	equals 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
The kati (16 tahils)	equals 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
The pikul (100 katis)	equals 133 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
The koyan (40 pikuls)	equals 5,333 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

I.—General

At the close of 1927 there was a surplus of 61 million dollars. This was increased as a result of the year's working to 64 millions in spite of the fact that a deficit of 6 millions was budgetted for at the beginning of the year. The increase in the surplus was due to the fact that the revenue exceeded the estimates by 5 millions whilst the expenditure was less by 4 millions. It would appear from the results that the Colony was overcautious in estimating its Revenue whereas it was oversanguine as to its capacity to spend. The general financial position is sound.

Activity in the land market declined during the year and the boom which began towards the close of 1925 and continued during the following years may now be considered ended. What activity still persisted was in the case of suburban and seaside property.

The Rubber Restriction scheme continued in operation until the 1st November, when it was removed entirely. Notice of its removal had been given by the announcement of the Prime Minister in the House of Commons on the 4th April. At the beginning of the year the price was 70 cents per lb., but it rapidly declined until, as a result of the Prime Minister's announcement, it fell to as low as 27 cents per lb. at the end of April. From that date onwards the price remained in the neighbourhood of 30 cents per lb. The percentage of release remained at 60 per cent until Restriction ceased.

A noticeable feature of the year was the suppression of lawlessness in Singapore in the form of crimes of violence and of outbursts of dissensions among the various native factions. This was due to the sustained and consistently devoted efforts of the Police Department.

During the early part of the year the Singapore Harbour Board decided that its present Wharf accommodation should be increased and a report by the Chairman, Singapore Harbour Board, on the various schemes put forward received careful consideration and was referred to the Consulting Engineers.

At the New Year His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to confer the honour of Knight Bachelor upon Mr. C. EVERITT, who had recently retired after serving on

both the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Colony
The Birthday Honours list included the following:—

Mr. W. H. LEE-WARNER of the Malayan Civil Service	...	O.B.E. (Civil Division)
Captain H. A. A. HOWELL, Assist- ant Staff Officer to Local Forces	... ..	M.B.E. (Military Division)
Mrs. E. P. MANASSEH	... ..	O.B.E. (Civil Division)
Mrs. A. SPROULE	... ..	O.B.E. (Civil Division)

The large and handsome building erected in Singapore to accommodate the General Post Office, the Singapore Club, the Singapore Chamber of Commerce and various Government offices, was completed by the middle of the year. It was officially opened by His Excellency the Governor on the 27th June, when it was announced that it would be known as Fullerton Building from its association with Fullerton Road, which was so named in commemoration of Mr. THOMAS FULLERTON, the first Governor of Singapore, Malacca and Penang.

Vice-Admiral Sir R. Y. TYRWHITT, K.C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief of the China Station, arrived at Singapore in H.M.S. "Hawkins" on the 13th January and made an official landing on the following day.

In February, His Excellency the Governor made an official visit to the neighbouring Kingdom of Siam, returning to Singapore *viâ* Saigon.

The Right Honourable W. G. A. ORMSBY-GORE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, arrived in Penang on the 5th April and carried through an extensive programme of visits in Malaya. After a tour in the Netherlands East Indies, he returned home *viâ* Colombo, leaving Penang on the 1st June.

His Excellency the Governor proceeded on leave to Europe on the 28th July, when the late Sir HAYES MARRIOTT, K.B.E., C.M.G., assumed the administration of the Government. Sir HUGH CLIFFORD returned to Penang on the 28th December.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the deep regret of the Government and of all communities in the Colony at the death on the 9th of February, 1929, of Sir HAYES MARRIOTT, who had proceeded on leave on the 28th December prior to retirement after 32 years devoted service in

this country, and also at the death of Lady MARRIOTT which occurred only a few days later.

II.—Finance

The revenue for the year 1928 amounted to \$38,092,221, exceeding the estimate by \$5,175,676, whilst the expenditure was \$35,007,608, being \$3,943,341 less than the estimate.

The revenue was \$490,140 more than that of 1927, while expenditure was less than the 1927 figure by \$4,245,664. The excess of revenue over expenditure was \$3,084,613 as compared with an excess of expenditure over revenue in 1927 of \$1,651,191.

The actual figures for 1927 and 1928 are as follows:—

(i)—REVENUE

—	1927	1928	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Port, Harbour, Wharf and Light Dues ...	2,519	2,588	69	...
2. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified ...	27,954,663	28,067,105	112,442	...
3. Fees of Court or Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid ...	1,246,494	1,213,723	...	32,771
4. Posts and Telegraphs ...	2,224,838	2,123,489	...	101,349
5. Rents on Govt. Property ...	1,753,768	1,879,938	126,170	...
6. Interest ...	2,976,328	2,362,898	...	613,430
7. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	588,392	954,795	366,403	...
	36,747,002	36,604,536	605,084	747,550
8. Land Sales ...	855,079	1,487,685	632,606	...
TOTAL ...	37,602,081	38,092,221	1,237,690	747,550
	Net Increase		...	\$490,140

The decline in revenue under Interest is mainly due to a lower rate of interest obtained for the Colony's sterling investments. The 1927 figure was augmented by a sum of \$126,500 on account of interest accrued due in 1926 but credited in 1927.

The increase under Miscellaneous Receipts is caused largely by a refund of \$139,500 on account of Defence Contribution, the transfer to revenue of \$97,000 standing to the credit of the Mercantile Marine Fund and the recovery of \$32,000 on account of over-payments.

(ii).—EXPENDITURE

—	1927	1928	Increase	Decrease
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Charge on account of the Public Debt ...	37,083	37,083	...	...
2. Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. ...	1,538,491	1,716,029	177,538	...
3. Charitable Allowances ...	20,283	33,107	12,824	...
4. The Governor ...	157,507	148,110	...	9,397
5. Civil Service ...	669,635	687,073	17,438	...
6. General Clerical Service ...	869,531	930,982	61,451	...
7. Colonial Secretary, Resident Councillors and Resident	129,041	129,305	264	..
8. Secretary to High Commissioner ...	13,884	13,615	...	269
9. Agricultural Department ...	42,279	46,043	3,764	...
10. Audit ...	24,103	23,633	...	470
11. Audit, External ...	...	16,849	16,849	...
12. Chinese and Indian Immigrants' Protection ...	83,824	90,423	6,599	...
13. Co-operative Societies ...	19,812	26,325	6,513	...
14. Ecclesiastical ...	25,059	25,281	222	...
15. Education ...	1,228,038	1,301,209	73,171	...
16. Fisheries ...	147,284	80,170	...	67,114
17. Forests ...	34,370	47,795	13,425	...
18. Gardens, Botanical ...	100,863	104,585	3,722	...
19. Imports, Exports and Statistics ...	35,771	40,084	4,313	...
20. Land and District Offices ...	237,861	254,917	17,056	...
21. Legal ...	351,128	333,770	...	17,358
22. Marine ...	598,168	628,104	29,936	...
23. Marine Surveys ...	69,755	73,181	3,426	...
24. Medical ...	401,677	360,311	...	41,366
25. Medical, Health Branch ...	604,635	648,914	44,279	...
26. Medical, Social Hygiene Branch ...	92,488	98,620	6,132	...
27. Medical, Hospitals and Dispensaries ...	2,066,543	2,246,130	179,587	...
28. Military Expenditure—				
I. Defence Contribution	5,303,211	3,960,000	...	1,343,211
II. Local Forces ...	390,803	438,037	47,234	...
29. Miscellaneous Services ...	9,157,397	5,759,964	...	3,397,433
30. Monopolies ...	1,686,966	1,727,880	40,914	...
31. Museum and Library, Raffles ...	55,730	52,871	...	2,859
32. Police ...	2,498,068	2,727,842	229,774	...
33. Political Intelligence Bureau	18,795	24,710	5,915	...
34. Post Office ...	1,681,747	1,765,803	84,056	...
35. Printing Office ...	180,262	200,739	20,477	...
36. Prisons ...	412,304	432,277	19,973	...
37. Public Works Department...	465,566	482,135	16,569	...
38. Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure ...	773,675	884,282	110,607	...
39. Public Works, Extraordinary ...	6,184,886	5,409,873	...	695,013
40. Survey Department ...	427,003	426,453	...	550
41. Transport ...	253,470	328,083	74,613	...
42. Treasury ...	100,999	98,926	...	2,073
43. Veterinary ...	63,277	66,085	2,808	...
TOTAL ...	39,253,272	35,007,608	1,331,449	5,577,113
	Net	Decrease ...	\$4,245,664	

The increase under Pensions, Retired Allowances, Gratuities, etc. is due to commutation of pensions under the Pensions (Gratuities) Ordinance, 1926.

The appointment of additional Teachers accounts largely for the increase under Education.

The larger expenditure under Hospitals and Dispensaries is due to new appointments and increased contributions to Hospital Boards.

The excess under Police is caused by an increased personnel and greater expenditure in connection with the conveyance of prisoners, vagrants etc.

The increase under Post Office is caused by additional appointments and the reconstruction of the Penang Telephone and Telegraph system.

The increase under Public Works, Recurrent Expenditure, is caused by the larger number of public works requiring upkeep and maintenance.

The head "Transport" includes provision for passages both of officers proceeding on furlough and of officers on their first appointment. The number of such officers showed an increase for 1928.

The abandonment of experimental fishing by the steam trawler *Tongkol* at the end of April caused the decrease under Fisheries.

The suspension in 1928 of payment of ten per cent of the revenue to the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund, a payment which in 1927 amounted to \$3½ millions, accounts for the decrease under Miscellaneous Services.

The expenditure under Military, Defence Contribution, which shows a large decrease, is more comparable with that of 1926. The large figure for 1927 was mainly due to arrears being paid in respect of the financial year 1925/1926.

The completion of the new Post Office, Singapore, (Fullerton Building) early in the year accounted mainly for the decrease under Public Works, Extraordinary.

An excess of more than \$1 million over the estimate for Miscellaneous Services was mainly due to the payments of \$251,204 as arrears to the Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund, of \$198,000 on account of the Singapore Town Improvement Scheme, of \$174,032 as a grant to the

Singapore Municipality in respect of the interest on its Government loan of \$13,000,000, and of \$290,000 for acquisition and purchase of land.

The following table shows the Colony's expenditure, excluding Defence Contribution, for the last five years and the portion of it which has been spent on Public Works Extraordinary:—

		<i>Total Expenditure</i>	<i>Public Works Expenditure</i>
		—	—
		\$	\$
1924	...	23,150,128	4,223,846
1925	...	54,314,078	5,142,549
1926	...	33,325,253	5,145,540
1927	...	33,950,061	6,184,886
1928	...	31,047,608	5,489,873

The abnormal figure for 1925 is due to the transfer of \$30,000,000 to the newly-formed Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund.

The amounts paid as Defence Contribution for the last 5 years are:—

				\$
1924	...	...	...	3,556,000
1925	...	...	...	3,280,000
1926	...	...	...	3,630,000
1927	...	...	...	5,303,000
1928	...	...	...	3,960,000

The amount for 1927 includes a sum of \$810,000 paid in respect of arrears for the financial year 1925 - 1926. A refund of \$139,500 received in 1928 in respect of overpayment in the financial year 1926 - 1927 is not included in the above figures.

(iii).—STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Assets and Liabilities of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, were as follows:—

<i>Liabilities</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>Assets</i>	<i>\$</i>
Deposits:—		Investments:—	
Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ... \$42,417,071		Colony ... \$40,620,788	
Other Deposits ... 10,173,793		Opium Revenue Replacement Reserve Fund ... 42,417,071	
	52,590,864	Other investments ... 4,360,956	
			87,398,815
Drafts and Remittances ... 31,202		Advances ... 1,048,546	
Suspense ... 3,329,011		Imprests ... 75,586	
		Cash in Transit ... 53,786	
Investments Depreciation Account ... 25,000			
Loans:—		Loans:—	
Straits Settlements 7% Loan 1921-1926 ... 200		Municipalities ... 6,691,861	
		Kelantan Government ... 4,080,684	
		Trengganu Government ... 1,747,000	
		Singapore Harbour Board ... 4,928,048	
		Penang Harbour Board ... 2,413,525	
		Ho Hong Steamship Co. ... 50,000	
		Singapore Cricket Club ... 24,183	
		Brunei Government ... 10,000	
		Stadium Association ... 25,000	
		War Service Land Grants Scheme ... 156,500	
		Singapore Improvement Trust ... 250,000	
		Indian Agency Account ... 164,952	
		Cash ... 10,886,114	
Surplus:—			
Reserved for specific purposes (a) ... \$17,248,703			
Unreserved ... 46,779,620			
	64,028,323		
TOTAL ...	120,004,600	TOTAL ...	120,004,600

(a) *Loans:—*

Loans to Municipalities ...	\$ 947,000
Loan to Government of Trengganu ...	1,753,000
Loan to Penang Harbour Board ...	453,000
War Service Land Grants Scheme ...	88,305
For building Dwelling Houses ...	517,709
	\$3,759,014

(a) *Commitments of Expenditure:—*

Raffles College Buildings ...	77,014
Share of Cost to Penang Water Supply ...	100,000
Development of Penang Hill ...	324,638
Singapore Town Improvement Scheme ...	8,108,408
Land required for improvement of Railway ...	2,638,320
Other Public Works shewn on page 3 of 1928 Estimates ...	2,241,309
	\$13,489,689
TOTAL ...	\$17,248,703

(iv).—PUBLIC DEBT

The indebtedness of the Colony in respect of the Loan raised by the issue of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Straits Settlements Inscribed Stock under the provisions of Ordinance No. 98 (Loan) amounted, on the 31st December, 1928, to £6,913,352, of which the equivalent in local currency is \$59,257,302.

The expenditure upon services in respect of which this loan was raised stands as follows:—

	\$
Singapore Harbour Board ...	47,720,526
Penang Harbour Board ...	2,093,974
Municipal Commissioners, Singapore ...	4,484,460
Municipal Commissioners, Penang ...	1,250,000
Government Harbour Works	320,137
Total ...	<u>\$55,869,097</u>
Loan Expenses and Cost of Conversion (1907 Loan) less interest received ...	<u>3,388,205</u>
	<u>\$59,257,302</u>

The charge on account of interest on, and expenses of, this loan was \$2,079,908 in 1928. This charge is, however, borne by the Singapore Harbour Board and the other bodies to whom portions of the loan have been allotted. The value of the investments of the sinking fund of this loan on 31st December, 1928, was approximately \$9,446,000.

The indebtedness of the Colony under the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent Conversion Loan 1919 stands at \$36,715,200, and under the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States Victory Loan 1920 at \$15,074,300. The principal of, and the major portion of the interest on all these two loans is payable by His Majesty's Government

The Sterling Loan issued under the provisions of Ordinance No. 182 (Straits Settlements Loan No. 11) amounted to \$80,187,714 (£9,355,000). The whole of the proceeds has been handed over to the Federated Malay States Government, which has legislated for the payment of the interest and charges in connection with the loan and of sinking fund contributions to extinguish it.

(v).—EXCHANGE

The following Banks had Establishments in the Colony during the year 1928:—

- The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China
- „ Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
- „ Mercantile Bank of India, Limited
- „ P. & O. Banking Corporation, Limited
- Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son (Bankers), Limited
- The Netherlands Trading Society (Nederlandsche Handel Maatschappij)
- „ Banque de l'Indo Chine
- „ National City Bank of New York
- „ Netherlands India Commercial Bank (Nederlandsch Indische Handelsbank)
- „ Sze Hai Tong Banking and Insurance Company, Limited
- „ Bank of Taiwan, Limited
- „ Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited
- „ Chinese Commercial Bank, Limited
- „ Ho Hong Bank, Limited
- „ China and Southern Bank, Limited
- „ Oversea Chinese Bank, Limited
- „ Lee Wah Bank, Limited
- „ Kwong Lee Banking Corporation
- „ Eastern Bank, Limited

During the year under report the sterling demand rate (bank opening rates only) ranged between $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ 21/32.

(vi).—CURRENCY

No change was made in the Currency Legislation during the year.

Excluding subsidiary coins, the currency of the Colony in circulation at the end of the year consisted of \$115,636,274.20 in currency notes and \$5,958,262 in dollars and half dollars, while there were still in circulation bank notes issued by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China to the value of \$138,999 as compared with \$139,585 at the end of 1927.

At the end of 1927 the Currency Notes in circulation amounted in value to \$117,805,414.70. There was a demand by the public for Currency Notes during the month of January, 1928, which resulted in the issue of notes to the extent of \$851,400. But there was also a demand for sterling in the months of May and August and the consequent contraction in Currency Notes during those months amounted to \$3,589,050, thus making a net contraction over the year of \$2,737,650. The value of the Currency Notes in circulation at the end of 1928 stood at \$115,636,274.20.

The liquid portion held by the Commissioners at the end of the year against the note circulation amounted to \$68,624,647.43, consisting of £328,251 in gold, \$16,321,765.71 in silver and \$2,736,154.75 on deposit with the Government held locally and £73,330 in gold and £5,381,203-16-3 in sterling and short dated investments in London.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the Currency Guarantee Fund were worth, at the average mean prices at the end of the year, \$102,959,862.97: the cost price of those investments having been \$104,216,567.10.

The requirements of the law are that, as a minimum, a portion of the Currency Guarantee Fund being not less than $\frac{2}{5}$ ths of the notes in Circulation shall be kept in "liquid" form *i.e.* in current silver and gold coin in the Colony and in Gold, cash on deposit in the Bank of England, Treasury Bills, Cash at call, or other easily realisable securities in London. The balance can be invested and is known as the Investment portion of the Fund. The liquid portion at the end of the year was \$68,706,907.05 and the investment portion amounted to \$102,959,862.97. The excess value of the Fund over the total note circulation at the end of the year was \$56,030,495.82 as compared with an excess of \$46,123,045.32 at the end of 1927.

There was a net withdrawal by the Treasury of \$101,016 in subsidiary silver coins during the year, and a net decrease of \$355,838.50 in the circulation of ten cent notes.

Excluding the amount held by the Treasury \$10,563,438 was in circulation at the end of the year in subsidiary silver and \$768,391.20 in current notes of values less than \$1. The value of notes below \$1 in circulation at the end of 1926 was \$1,923,607.70 and at the end of 1927 \$1,124,307.70.

Twenty millions five hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and forty notes to the value of \$87,133,550 were destroyed during the year as against 26,697,813 to the value of \$140,666,694 in 1927.

(vii) ENEMY PROPERTY.

During the year a sum of \$24,113.29 was transferred to the Clearing Office (Enemy Debts), London. The total proceeds of liquidation of Enemy Property so transferred to the end of 1928 amounted to \$12,815,248.70.

LOCAL CLEARING OFFICE.

The position at the end of the year 1928 in regard to the different classes of claims was as follows:—

German Claims.—The total value of all claims registered remained at \$1,894,021.59 as in the previous year. Claims for \$1,643,954.14 have been withdrawn and claims for \$200,389.76 admitted. Claims to the value of \$49,240.43 were under reference to the Mixed Arbitral Tribunal and in addition there was a portion of a claim amounting to \$437.26 unsettled. The admitted claims together with interest \$36,123.87 amounted to \$236,539.34. Of this \$219,859.84 has been recovered. The balance will have to be treated as irrecoverable.

The sum of \$33,168.11 was collected from British Nationals during the year on account of admitted debts and interest.

British Claims.—The total value of the claims registered remained at \$217,366.40 as in the previous year. Of this, claims to the value of \$16,871.57 were withdrawn during the year making the total of the withdrawn claims \$170,279.07. The admissions during the year amounted to \$11,648.16, including interest \$4,702.84, making the total of the admissions \$47,087.33 on account of principal and \$21,019.52 on account of interest or a total of \$68,106.85. The payment to British creditors in respect of the foregoing admissions amounted to \$48,464.82.

CLAIMS AGAINST AUSTRIAN AND HUNGARIAN NATIONALS.

During the year a dividend of 1/- in the £ on the admitted claims was credited and distributed making the total of the dividend so distributed 20/- in the £ on the first £5- and 13/- in the £ on the balance ranking for dividend. Liabilities outstanding on the 31st December, 1928, amounted to \$1,141.07.

Funds in the hands of the Local Controller.—These amounted to \$37,000 on fixed deposit and \$22,302.03 cash.

III.—Production

(a) AGRICULTURE

The total expenditure of the Department of Agriculture in the Colony, including the contribution towards the Head Office expenses, was \$153,268.49, while the Revenue collected in the Colony amounted to \$1,950.35.

Rubber.—In 1927 the Department of Agriculture handed over to the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya all work in connection with rubber cultivation other than the administration of Ordinance No. 166 (Agricultural Pests). Under this Ordinance the Department is still responsible for enforcing the control of pests and diseases of rubber.

The standard of upkeep maintained on large plantations was not appreciably affected by the lower prices for rubber ruling during the year, but a deterioration in the general condition of native holdings accompanied by a programme of more liberal tapping was apparent. Following the removal of restriction at the end of October excessive tapping and a tendency to neglect sanitation and diseases became general on small holdings.

Pests and diseases of rubber showed no material increase in virulence or distribution, nor were any new diseases recorded by the Agricultural Department. A long period of dry weather in the first half of the year effectively checked the development of the more important fungi which attack the tapped surface and the branches of rubber trees, but with the advent of the rainy season vigorous recrudescences of Mouldy Rot disease in all three Settlements necessitated persistent enforcement of control measures by the field staff.

The importation throughout the year of very considerable quantities of budwood, and to a lesser extent selected seeds, from Java and Sumatra, would indicate that planting Companies are making strenuous efforts to develop their properties along up-to-date and scientific lines.

Coconuts.—The price of copra opened at \$11.90 per picul and declined gradually until the middle of October when it was \$10.10 per picul. Thereafter it varied between this figure and \$10.45, closing at the end of the year at \$10.05. Good average crops of nuts have been reported throughout the Colony during the year.

A scheme for instituting research work on the preparation of copra has been approved and the Empire Marketing

Board has undertaken to contribute a half share of the provision made for this work. Preliminary chemical investigations connected with this scheme have been commenced.

The two important insect pests of coconuts, the Black Beetle and the Red Stripe weevil, were satisfactorily controlled. In Singapore Island much useful work has been accomplished in destroying dead coconut trunks and stumps which serve as breeding grounds for these two pests. The results so far obtained from research work on various local diseases of the coconut and other palms were published in the *Malayan Agricultural Journal* during the year.

Padi (Rice).—The total area under padi during the season 1927–28 amounted to 72,834 acres and yielded 22,206,540 gantangs, as compared with 69,919 acres and 19,072,956 gantangs during the 1926–27 season, when both the planted area and yield were below the average.

In Province Wellesley the padi crop suffered severely from the adverse climatic conditions so frequently experienced in past seasons, drought during the planting and growing period and heavy rains during the delayed harvest, the loss of crop being further augmented by the ravages of insect pests, as often happens under such conditions. In Malacca a very satisfactory season was experienced and a crop averaging 327 gantangs per acre was harvested.

Season 1928–29. In Penang, the Province and the Dindings it is estimated that some 45,040 acres are under cultivation, a decrease of 125 acres compared with last season's area, while in Malacca the area has increased by some 2,478 acres, giving a total planted area of 30,147 acres. Planting in Province Wellesley was again considerably delayed by drought conditions, and the programme was not completed until December. Malacca enjoyed a normal season. At the close of the year conditions were favourable throughout and crops were making satisfactory progress.

Up to the close of the year insect pests had only occasioned slight damage. In Malacca rats were as usual active, but to a lesser degree than in some previous years. Traps and poisons were obtained in large quantities and were sold to padi cultivators at cost price. In Province Wellesley the rat campaign made satisfactory progress, especially after the appointment of a Rat Destruction Officer in July. Taking into consideration the very dry conditions prevailing during the early stages of the crop's growth, the absence of any extensive damage indicates the efficiency and value

of organised rat control. 509,151 rats were secured at an average cost of 1.785 cents ($\frac{1}{2}d.$) each.

At the Pekan Darat experiment station in Province Wellesley during the season 1927—28 lack of water in the earlier stages delayed cultivation and transplanting operations and rendered the growth of the crop uneven. Applications of soluble nitrogenous and potash fertilisers failed to produce an appreciable improvement. Although the yield was poor, some interesting information concerning the behaviour of different varieties under adverse conditions was obtained. Work during the 1928—29 season has followed the same lines as in previous years. Dry weather again delayed operations. At the close of the year, however, the general appearance of the padi, though only moderately satisfactory, was considerably better than that recorded in the two previous seasons.

Tests were commenced on padi lands at Glugor Estate, Penang, with the object of determining which strains of padi are best suited for cultivation on the island.

On the Pulau Gadong experimental station at Malacca the 1927—28 crop was again badly damaged by rats and no conclusions could be drawn from the results obtained. The Pure Lines however were not affected, and the usual records were obtained for the third year. The 1928—29 crop has done well so far, and, given relative freedom from rat damage, useful results may be anticipated. Improvements, in the shape of levelling uneven ground and clearing and planting higher land with fodder grasses, were carried out during the year.

Padi Soil Survey.—Further samples were analysed, and confirmation found of the opinion expressed in the last report, *viz.*, that the presence of a considerable proportion of sand is not necessarily a bar to good production. No other general relationships have yet been found.

Minor Crops.—With the help of the Empire Marketing Board and the Malay States Information Agency, exhibits of Malayan (Singapore) canned pineapples were staged at the British Industries Fair in London, the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, and the Imperial Fruit Show in Manchester. These exhibits attracted considerable attention. Recent communications have, however, emphasised that, if Malaya is to obtain the full benefit of the excellent facilities thus afforded for bringing this commodity to the notice of the consumer and to be enabled successfully to face

competition in this market, the different grades of the product must be carefully standardised. This important aspect of the pineapple industry was discussed at an informal meeting of packers and exporters with Mr. E. M. H. LLOYD of the Empire Marketing Board held in Singapore on the 2nd May, 1928. At this meeting both sections of the industry were able to exchange views and to learn from Mr. LLOYD the methods successfully employed in other countries for standardising similar agricultural produce.

An extension of coffee cultivation is reported from the Dindings. The cultivation of cloves in Penang appears to be waning; the crop harvested during November was not above the average. Vegetable cultivation on a large scale is maintained in the Central district of the Province and in parts of Penang Island.

Fruit.—The fruit crop throughout the Province and Penang was good, but the quality, especially towards the close of the season, was poor, owing no doubt to unseasonable weather conditions. Crops in Malacca were good throughout the year. At Pringgit in Malacca a small fruit station comprising one and a half acres was partly planted with various local fruit trees, and preparations were made to receive a further supply of selected planting material.

Soils.—The main work of the Soils Division has been on the establishment of soil types. Three main inland types have been characterised on the area selected for detailed survey and have been found to be closely connected with the underlying parent material.

Water Hyacinth.—Work on the eradication of this pest on Crown lands has been continued in the Province and much progress is reported.

School Gardens.—Regular supervision has been given throughout the year and several new gardens have been laid out. Seeds and seedlings have been supplied when required, while distributions of good varieties of fruit have also been made.

Agricultural Shows.—The Malacca branch of the Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association held its annual show on July 21st and 22nd. Considerable interest was stimulated and the attendance was good.

Distinguished visitors to the Department of Agriculture during the year have included in March Dr. A. W. HILL, C.M.G., F.R.S., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and in April the Right Honourable Major W. G. A. ORMSBY-GORE, M.P., Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(b) FORESTRY

The area of reserved forests was increased by the addition of 3,325 acres at Gunong Tunggal and Tanjong Hantu in the Dindings. Reserves were decreased by 72 acres at Bukit Timah in Singapore Island for a quarry; by 12 acres 3 roods at Pantai Acheh in Penang for agriculture; by 15 acres at Tanjong Burong in the Dindings for agriculture; by 1 rood 38 poles at Bukit Sedanan and by 94 acres 2 roods 3 poles at Ramuan China, both in Malacca, for agriculture; and by 25 acres 2 roods and 5 poles at Bukit Bruang, also in Malacca, for a burial ground. The total area of forest reserve is now 114,580 acres 2 roods 2 poles as against 111,476 acres 1 rood 8 poles at the end of 1927, equivalent to 11.9% of the total area of the Colony.

The Malacca forests were managed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests, stationed at first at Tampin but later at Jasin, under the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Negri Sembilan. A Sub-Assistant Conservator of Forests was in charge of the Dindings forests, but was later replaced by an Assistant Conservator of Forests stationed at Lumut.

During the year further areas of poor inland forest in Singapore were allotted to squatters on temporary permits for the cultivation of vegetables. The areas were 50 acres at Pandan, 128 acres at Kranji, 70 at Bukit Panjang, 1,000 at Mandai and 160 at Bukit Timah.

A scheme for the management of the Malacca forests was prepared and approved generally, and working was begun. The proposed scheme for the Dindings forests is not yet completed.

Revenue and expenditure were \$63,308 and \$66,241 respectively, as compared with \$52,763 and \$54,998 in 1927, expenditure in both cases excluding the cost of temporary allowance. There was therefore a deficit of \$2,933 as compared with one of \$2,235 in 1927. Revenue increased in Singapore and the Dindings but fell off in Penang and Province Wellesley and Malacca.

The outturn of timber was 9,488 tons, and of fuel and charcoal 30,857 tons, as compared with 9,677 and 27,241 tons in 1927.

Minor forest produce yielded \$3,815 as compared with \$4,363 in 1927. No rubber was tapped in Malacca after March.

Seventy-six cases of breach of the forest law were reported. Twenty-eight of these offenders were not detected. Fines inflicted in court amounted to \$462 and compensation amounting to \$606 was awarded for damage to the forests.

A few minor alterations of the Forest Rules were made during the the year.

(c) FISHERIES

The Trawler *Tongkol* stopped work on the 1st May and was sold to a Company working in Ceylon waters for the sum of £8,000. The experimental work conducted by this vessel has shown that steam trawling in Malayan waters is not a profitable undertaking. The main reasons for this of course are that fish are scarce and that the expenses are found to be roughly double the returns. Various factors may account for the scarcity of fish but the most noticeable feature is perhaps that fish do not concentrate and remain localised in any particular area. Although the shallow waters of 5 fathoms and thereabouts yield a big weight of fish, compared with the deeper waters, the bulk of these fish are of a low grade and fetch but a poor price. They are very small and decay rapidly and this kind of fishing can only be developed if working costs are kept low.

The local fisheries apart from the usual fluctuations are on the whole unchanged and despite the fall in the price of rubber the price of fish shows little inclination to drop. The Japanese still continue to extend their activities and are most enterprising. Their success is due to sheer hard work and in this respect the Japanese very much resemble the European and American fishermen. Neither bad weather nor distance deter them, nor do they consider a good profit from a fishing an excuse for temporarily reducing their efforts. The boycott to which they were subjected in the early part of the year compelled them to work harder than ever to minimise their losses, due to the drop in price of their fish from about 20 cents to 5 cents a kati. As a result they landed the greatest weight of fish which the Japanese have ever obtained from fishing in the vicinity of Singapore. They are now taking up tunny fishing, using drift nets and handlines. This will be carried out off the North Borneo coast, in the neighbourhood of the Natuna and Anamba Islands, and off the East Coast of Malaya where favourable.

The cultivation of carp is being treated scientifically and considerable progress is being made in ascertaining the

physical conditions of waters which are suitable or unsuitable for rearing these fish. Similarly experiments are being carried out on improving the diet of young carp, with the intention of making them grow faster, and the food value of local fish is being investigated in the Biochemical Laboratories in the Medical College, a most important help to fisheries work.

An extensive report on inshore methods of fishing is in preparation with a view to a thorough investigation of their value as compared with the methods practised in other countries and the scheme of fisheries statistics started about three years ago is being keenly pursued.

(d) MINING

Mining operations in the Colony are confined to the Settlement of Malacca.

There are still numerous pieces of Land held under Approved Applications for Mining Lease in the neighbourhood of Chin Chin. The Revenue from Tin was \$8,822 as against \$11,507 in the previous year.

IV.—Trade and Economics

NOTE:—In accordance with a recent decision approved by the Secretary of State the Trade Returns of the Straits Settlements as a separate unit have been discontinued and the Foreign Trade Return of British Malaya (namely trade between countries overseas with British Malaya) has been adopted instead. The figures in the following report, therefore, relate to British Malayan Foreign Trade and do not include any internal trade between the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and Unfederated Malay States.

The aggregate value of the trade of British Malaya in merchandise recorded during 1928 amounted to 199 million Sterling, a decrease of 40 million from the 1927 total or about 17%, and a decrease of nearly 25% from the 1926 total, which was the highest recorded. Of this decrease nearly 40% is due to the decline in the value of the trade in rubber, the aggregate of which was 273 million Dollars or about 32 million Sterling less than in 1927.

The total amount of rubber exported was about 409,000 tons, valued at 330 million Dollars, which is an increase in

quantity of over 37,000 tons and a decrease in value of 190 million Dollars as compared with the 1927 figures.

The quantity of rubber imported was about 150,000 tons, valued at 88 million Dollars, a decrease of 33,000 tons in weight and of 83½ million Dollars in value as compared with 1927. It should be noted that the declared weight of rubber imported includes moisture and impurities, while that of the rubber exported is the dry weight.

The exports of tin increased to 99,000 tons as compared with 84,000 tons in 1927, but the value was only about 191 million Dollars as against 207 million Dollars in 1927, a decrease of about 8%. This export is the highest recorded in the British Malayan Return.

The following figures show the value of British Malaya's trade for the last five years, the value of Bullion and Specie being excluded:—

YEAR			IMPORTS	EXPORTS
—			—	—
			Thousands	Thousands
			\$	\$
1924	...	...	653,311	720,450
1925	...	...	967,943	1,281,775
1926	...	...	1,003,849	1,262,596
1927	...	...	990,562	1,061,729
1928	...	...	860,643	845,064

The following are the figures of Bullion and Specie for the last five years:—

YEAR			IMPORTS	EXPORTS
—			—	—
			Thousands	Thousands
			\$	\$
1924	...	...	13,381	4,635
1925	...	...	40,109	8,110
1926	...	...	46,263	10,878
1927	...	...	27,250	6,965
1928	...	...	18,862	6,962

The following tables show the quantities and values of the principal articles imported and exported during the last five years:—

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES IMPORTED

Articles	How Stated	1924			1925			1926			1927			1928		
		Quantities	Value	Thousands	Quantities	Value	Thousands	Quantities	Value	Thousands	Quantities	Value	Thousands	Quantities	Value	Thousands
Para Rubber	Tons.	108,524	76,298	\$	158,931	237,617	\$	151,511	170,497	\$	183,250	171,913	\$	150,197	88,428	\$
Tin Ore	"	37,909	55,359		39,489	60,984		36,801	62,599		42,254	73,362		44,389	66,950	
Rice	"	580,735	72,606		650,007	80,650		755,380	98,378		839,959	104,355		803,909	95,473	
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	"	759,357	10,035		1,081,456	13,780		1,271,956	15,857		1,283,771	15,141		1,368,091	15,491	
Sugar	Tons.	91,152	18,156		112,919	15,808		108,829	15,169		110,683	15,367		111,733	12,905	
Cigarettes	lbs.	12,697,744	22,358		15,398,156	29,129		12,436,459	27,102		11,383,411	26,334		11,131,334	26,636	
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	47,917	12,471		56,172	13,889		56,535	15,731		52,609	15,460		51,038	13,996	
Areanuts	"	40,021	7,706		39,977	10,009		40,525	9,399		32,132	5,878		45,202	6,983	
Motor Spirit (Benzine)	"	107,112	29,210		225,840	62,546		273,270	75,269		269,319	65,426		290,877	55,310	
Petroleum (Kerosene)	"	93,704	15,023		110,070	18,095		91,316	15,114		134,994	18,931		147,074	15,640	
Sago	"	57,203	5,040		47,504	4,225		37,625	3,245		42,298	3,722		39,268	2,806	
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	112,542,425	30,779		169,996,693	46,250		150,284,724	41,265		154,958,635	37,154		125,699,332	29,846	
Sarongs	Nos.	9,510,134	13,144		12,493,136	17,243		12,324,839	17,361		10,673,439	14,148		9,617,809	12,847	
Copra	Tons.	67,314	12,929		66,815	13,036		81,010	15,178		56,538	10,040		87,230	15,496	
Pepper	"	19,092	14,212		14,212	9,391		14,350	12,225		11,915	15,028		12,710	16,378	
Rattans	"	21,951	3,663		19,852	3,547		21,077	4,468		20,786	3,990		20,779	3,723	
Coal	"	673,962	9,912		627,482	8,052		793,301	9,545		876,348	10,972		812,130	9,768	
Machinery	"	...	8,731		...	13,014		...	19,658		...	22,915		...	27,652	

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL ARTICLES EXPORTED

Articles	How Stated	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
		Quantities	Value Thousands \$	Quantities	Value Thousands \$	Quantities	Value Thousands \$	Quantities	Value Thousands \$	Quantities	Value Thousands \$
Para Rubber	Tons.	259,706	264,940	316,836	746,228	249,591	3,251	371,309	519,465	408,692	329,790
Tin	"	80,674	169,147	79,082	175,202	5,410,863	9,988	83,773	206,571	99,053	191,279
Rice	"	186,354	23,712	246,949	31,212	60,220	15,161	294,241	35,992	280,139	32,780
Milk, Condensed and Sterilized	Cases.	141,327	1,958	208,595	2,744	249,591	3,251	220,666	2,710	212,261	2,536
Cigarettes	lbs.	7,295,032	10,928	7,957,571	12,348	5,410,863	9,988	4,279,513	8,598	3,999,265	8,015
Fish, Dried and Salted	Tons.	55,020	14,512	59,021	14,105	60,220	15,161	58,577	14,309	57,544	14,470
Arcanauts	"	62,195	14,983	58,908	18,293	63,021	17,288	49,879	10,300	69,259	12,196
Benzine (Motor Spirit)	"	62,309	17,257	189,912	53,175	205,455	57,486	202,439	48,834	184,416	34,954
Petroleum (Kerosene)	"	50,446	8,208	63,518	10,076	61,649	9,283	92,538	12,587	112,058	12,067
Sago	"	58,654	6,534	51,165	5,641	41,685	4,497	44,280	4,664	44,195	3,991
Cotton Piece Goods	Yards.	54,944,093	13,453	63,966,854	16,413	52,693,161	13,203	51,777,059	12,535	41,000,093	9,957
Sarongs	Nos.	5,379,731	7,434	5,635,638	7,941	5,510,925	7,751	6,088,828	7,779	5,211,937	6,573
Copra	Tons.	159,049	32,668	153,236	32,110	185,404	36,488	140,042	26,578	182,858	34,165
Pepper	"	19,592	8,297	15,729	10,142	14,453	13,292	13,515	16,762	13,509	18,413
Rattans	"	22,777	5,582	18,349	4,821	16,715	4,729	15,960	4,321	16,431	4,335
Preserved Pineapples	"	39,204	8,874	43,208	8,237	40,634	7,670	40,134	8,297	46,401	8,421
Rubber Latex	Gals.	803,539	1,252	2,316,438	10,413	2,087,849	6,650	1,560,976	3,523	919,909	1,297
Sugar	Tons	24,585	5,048	26,049	3,692	20,218	2,984	18,065	2,534	20,227	2,530

Para Rubber was imported from the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$
British North Borneo and Sarawak	9,059	8,757	11,330	24,848	11,629	18,691	14,198	18,738	13,359	10,317
Netherlands Indies	93,113	61,796	138,870	195,881	132,987	141,587	157,837	139,286	126,400	69,941
Other Countries	6,352	5,745	8,731	16,888	6,895	10,219	11,215	13,889	10,438	8,170
Total	108,524	76,298	158,931	237,617	151,511	170,497	183,250	171,913	150,197	88,428

Para Rubber was exported to the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928:—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$
United Kingdom	33,502	35,939	45,698	121,367	83,998	155,493	76,398	111,234	60,993	50,311
United States of America	186,701	189,154	226,530	519,489	254,343	461,935	241,352	333,455	284,200	229,721
Other Countries	39,503	39,847	44,598	103,372	52,996	93,874	53,559	74,776	63,499	49,757
Total	259,706	264,940	316,826	746,228	391,337	711,302	371,309	519,465	408,692	329,789

Tin Ore was imported from the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 :—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$
British India and Burma	1,473	1,904	1,832	2,653	1,802	2,967	2,226	3,614	2,306	3,633
Union of South Africa	1,836	2,438	1,833	2,566	1,537	2,419	1,808	2,911	1,839	2,225
Netherlands Indies	24,395	36,408	25,342	40,203	23,429	40,884	27,157	48,684	28,801	46,652
Siam	10,052	14,413	10,210	15,132	9,706	15,764	10,335	17,131	10,464	14,099
Other Countries	153	196	282	370	417	565	728	1,022	979	941
Total	37,909	55,359	39,489	60,984	36,891	62,599	42,254	73,362	44,389	66,950

Tin was exported to the following countries in 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1928 :—

	1924		1925		1926		1927		1928	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$		Thousands \$
United Kingdom	16,335	33,964	13,970	30,815	11,101	26,785	9,453	22,986	12,910	24,843
United States of America	46,195	97,621	45,120	99,895	44,513	108,013	46,370	114,812	56,986	109,929
Other Countries	18,144	37,562	19,992	41,492	20,720	50,728	27,950	68,773	29,157	56,507
Total	80,674	169,147	79,082	175,202	76,334	185,526	83,773	206,571	99,053	191,279

Rubber.—The quantity of para rubber imported from outside British Malaya amounted to 150,000 tons, valued at about 88 million Dollars, a decrease of about 33,000 tons in quantity and 83½ million Dollars in value as compared with 1927. These imports show a decrease from all the principal countries.

The quantity of para rubber exported to the United States of America was 284,000 tons, an increase of 43,000 tons in quantity but a decrease of about 104 million dollars in value as compared with 1927. The quantity exported to the United Kingdom was 15,000 tons and 61 million dollars less in value than in 1927. The exports to other countries collectively increased by 10,000 tons in quantity but declined by 25 million dollars in value as compared with 1927.

Tin.—The imports of tin ore increased by about 2,000 tons. The exports of refined tin increased in quantity by 15,000 tons, but decreased in value by 15 million dollars.

Cotton Goods.—The quantity of cotton piece goods imported decreased by 29 million yards in quantity and by 7 million dollars in value. The re-exports of these goods decreased by 11 million yards.

Other Imported Articles.—Those which showed an increase were machinery, copra, pepper, arecanuts, milk and cigarettes. Decreases occurred in rice, sugar, dried fish, motor spirit, petroleum, sarongs, coal, sago and rattans.

The re-export trade in the above commodities was similarly affected with the exception of that in milk and cigarettes (which decreased) and in dried fish (which only increased slightly).

Pineapples.—The exports of canned pineapples increased by 6,000 tons, and their value by 120 thousand dollars.

The following table shews the value of the merchandise imported from and exported to the United Kingdom, Australasia, Countries in the Continent of Europe, United States of America, Japan and Netherlands East Indies during the last five years :—

	IMPORTS					EXPORTS				
	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	(Thousands)	\$	\$	\$	\$
United Kingdom	87,903	121,855	136,913	132,609	138,904	94,894	178,160	205,932	158,632	98,244
Australia and New Zealand	15,002	18,328	15,357	17,193	16,950	10,597	26,447	42,081	40,789	27,637
Austria	41	19	95	576	585	158	171	34	42	10
Belgium	2,639	3,076	5,106	4,830	4,209	1,507	2,762	2,434	1,519	1,744
Czecho Slovakia	...	...	...	332	537	...	...	...	...	...
Denmark	971	696	1,137	1,114	1,756	3,482	1,922	2,556	2,883	3,411
France	6,583	7,942	13,301	11,173	8,093	29,843	44,132	40,912	34,060	26,260
Germany	5,764	8,537	13,715	13,705	14,443	12,534	29,696	18,576	16,818	18,290
Italy	5,440	9,675	15,947	9,672	7,499	12,647	18,410	15,245	13,046	10,023
Netherlands	5,431	9,487	10,859	11,583	10,905	17,076	29,543	29,673	41,575	35,535
Norway	1,023	762	467	588	702	196	161	145	20	227
Russia	36	34	98	176	6	...	141	53	54	177
Spain	32	77	129	71	60	3,821	3,815	3,780	2,252	3,354
Sweden	690	675	617	765	1,074	1,220	1,548	2,359	1,365	1,109
Switzerland	...	...	...	3,506	5,887	...	...	...	...	...
Other European Countries	106	290	232	512	1,082	...	48	67	115	263
United States of America	22,712	30,726	34,866	31,799	27,542	298,533	643,159	597,875	466,998	353,372
Japan	16,556	29,957	34,900	30,215	20,219	26,487	36,987	30,966	38,628	33,983
Netherlands East Indies	231,643	403,000	367,979	363,613	287,006	83,806	113,379	112,451	101,280	91,494

The above table shows an increase in the value of goods imported from the following countries :—

United Kingdom, Austria, Czecho-slovakia, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Other European Countries.

Imports from Australasia, Belgium, France, Italy, Holland, Russia, Spain, United States of America, Japan, and the Netherlands East Indies decreased. Exports decreased generally but increased in the case of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Russia, Spain and Other European Countries.

United Kingdom.—The value of a number of articles imported from the United Kingdom increased, particularly cigarettes, cement, steel girders, tinplates, tubes, pipes and fittings, brass and brassware, insulated wire and cables, electrical goods, dredging materials, electrical machinery, sewing thread, and cranes and hoists. Decreases occurred in respect of biscuits, galvanised iron, sewing machines, cotton piece goods, and motor cars. The exports to the United Kingdom of tin and illipinuts increased in value and the exports of rubber, sago, pepper, tapioca, copra, rattan, gutta percha, canned pineapples, and fishmaws decreased.

United States of America.—The principal imports from the United States of America which increased in value were batteries and accumulators, motor cars (slightly), motor parts, tyre covers, asphalt and bitumen, milk, and unmanufactured tobacco. Decreases occurred under sardines, cigarettes, galvanised iron, tinplates, machinery, kerosene, lubricating oil, and motor spirit. Of the goods exported gutta inferior, canned pineapples, and coffee increased and tin, pepper, copra, rattans, para rubber, gum copal, and jelutong decreased in value.

Japan.—The value of most of the goods imported from Japan decreased, particularly cotton piece goods, underwear, cement, matches, rubber cases, dried and salted fish, and coal. There was a slight increase in value under Japanese slippers and sandals. As regards exports para rubber, tin and kerosene decreased and iron ore and rattans increased in value.

Netherlands East Indies.—The value of the trade of the Netherlands East Indies declined mainly owing to the drop in the value of their rubber exports to British Malaya. Other imports which decreased were sago flour, coffee, sugar, potatoes, tin ore, sarongs, and motor spirit. The imports of swine, arecanuts, pepper, copra, and liquid fuel increased. Among the exports beans, fruits dried and preserved, cloves, cigarettes, coconut oil, crockery and porcelain, cotton piece goods, and motor spirit decreased and dried and salted fish, gunnies, and boots and shoes (other sorts) increased in value.

Continent of Europe.—The aggregate trade with the Continent of Europe shows a decrease.

V.—Communications

(a) SHIPPING AND HARBOUR BOARDS

(i) Shipping

The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 42,987,154 as compared with 39,693,766 in 1927—

Statement showing combined Arrivals and Departures of Merchant Vessels for the Years 1927 and 1928

NATIONALITY	1927				1928				Increase in 1928 as compared with 1927	Decrease in 1928 as compared with 1927
	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christ-mas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)	Singapore	Penang	Malacca	Christ-mas Island and Labuan	Total tonnage (Entered and Cleared)
Finnish	5,304	...	...	...	5,304	...	...	...	...	5,304
Belgian	13,696	6,348	...	...	20,044	13,312	...	...	...	6,732
American	555,288	470,899	1,436	...	1,027,623	568,870	431,510	...	...	27,243
Austrian	...	...	...	...	...	10,710	...	...	...	...
Yugo-Slavian	6,520	6,520	...	...	13,040	...	...	...	...	13,040
British	11,751,846	7,452,222	364,246	242,388	19,810,702	12,286,244	8,068,159	408,508	220,758	20,983,660
Chinese	87,782	3,124	16,728	...	107,634	44,370	...	...	...	44,370
Danish	454,152	292,980	18,764	...	765,896	492,641	384,956	76,172	...	953,769
Dutch	5,537,592	1,424,703	4,640	4,706	6,971,641	6,435,707	1,491,180	2,374	7,018	7,936,279
French	1,831,538	...	...	...	1,831,538	2,065,290	...	...	...	2,065,290
German	1,153,334	583,448	...	...	1,736,782	1,576,134	...	...	...	2,358,350
Italian	367,278	149,822	...	...	517,100	340,056	210,006	...	...	540,062
Japanese	3,906,443	1,051,908	21,190	96,614	5,076,155	3,841,421	1,049,340	...	102,080	4,992,841
Norwegian	1,052,859	77,192	34,842	...	1,164,893	1,196,801	207,942	71,042	...	1,475,785
Sarawak	133,195	...	124	3,044	136,363	156,821	...	...	3,032	159,853
Siamese	186,205	1,600	...	...	187,805	181,972	...	3,008	...	184,980
Spanish	29,788	...	...	...	29,788	29,572	...	...	...	29,572
Swedish	186,694	100,698	...	4,066	291,458	159,892	78,040	...	...	237,932
TOTALS	27,259,514	11,621,464	461,970	350,818	39,693,766	29,389,813	12,703,349	561,104	332,888	42,987,154

Net Increase ... 3,293,388

In the last five years the combined arrivals and departures of merchant vessels have been as follows:—

1924 ...	...	...	32,617,101 tons.
1925 ...	...	...	35,032,127 „
1926 ...	...	...	38,028,630 „
1927 ...	...	...	39,693,766 „
1928 ...	...	...	42,987,154 ..

Of the small craft (steamers under 50 tons and native vessels), the combined arrivals and departures in 1928 were 68,530 in number and 2,282,501 in tons as compared with 64,562 and 2,302,838, respectively, in 1927.

Three new steam-vessels and seven motor-vessels, with a tonnage of 512 tons gross, and forty-five sailing-vessels (4,067 tons) were registered during the year under the Imperial Shipping Acts. Under Ordinance No. 125 (Merchant Shipping), 15 new sailing-vessels (1,304 tons) were licensed under section 424, and 989 vessels (9,821 tons) under sections 425 and 426.

(ii) *Harbour Boards*

The income and expenditure of the Singapore Harbour Board for the last two years have been as follows:—

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	— \$	— \$
Year ended 30th June, 1927 ...	12,027,510	8,895,896
Year ended 30th June, 1928 ...	10,744,189	8,180,919

The capital debt due to Government amounted to \$52,648,574 at June 30th, 1928, in respect of which sum the Board pay interest half yearly, at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on \$50,077,146 and on the balance of \$2,571,428 at the rate of 3 per cent per annum.

In addition to this working capital the Board has expended on new works and other services of a permanent nature a sum of \$6,715,546 from reserve accounts.

The total gross earnings of the Penang Harbour Board for the year ended 30th June, 1928, were \$2,150,517 and the expenditure was \$1,710,108.

The capital debt due to Government stood on 30th June, 1928, at \$4,290,464.

(b) *RAILWAYS*

A railway, the property of the Federated Malay States Government, traverses the island of Singapore and connects, by a causeway across the Johore Straits, which was opened for traffic in October, 1923, with the peninsular system.

thus affording rail communication with Johore, the Federated Malay States, Malacca, Province Wellesley, Penang, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan and Siam.

(c).—ROADS

The metalled Roads of the Colony (exclusive of those maintained by the Municipalities of Singapore, Penang and Malacca) measure 578·83 miles, distributed as follows:—

Singapore	...	...	*103·48
Penang and the Dindings	...	...	99·77
Province Wellesley	...	...	178·25
Malacca	...	...	184·66
Labuan	...	...	12·67

Of the 578·83 miles of metalled road 418·38 miles are now treated with asphalt.

In addition to the metalled roads 226·16 miles of gravel road, natural road and hill path are maintained in the various Settlements.

The re-surfacing of all metalled road with granite was continued, a further 5·5 miles in Singapore, 22·22 miles in Penang and the Dindings, 17·45 miles in Province Wellesley, 13·5 miles in Malacca, and 2·4 miles in Labuan.

(d) POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES

The work of the Postal and Telegraph Sections of the Post Office during the year 1928 showed on the whole a steady increase over preceding years. On Monday the 23rd July, 1928, the new General Post Office in "Fullerton Building," Singapore, was opened to the public.

The Postal rates are as follows:—

	LETTERS		POSTCARDS		PRINTED PAPERS
	1st oz.	Each succeeding oz.	Single	Reply	For every two ozs.
Foreign	12 cts.	6 cts.	6 cts.	12 cts.	2 cts.
Imperial	6 "	6 "	4 "	8 "	2 "
Local	2 ozs. 4 cts.	Each succeeding 2 ozs. 2 cts.	2 "	4 "	2 "

*This figure does not include roads upkeep by Government within the Municipal Limits. These roads total 25 miles and form the approaches to Government buildings and Government Quarters.

The number of postal articles (excluding parcels) posted in the Colony was 24,014,000, an average of 24.15 per inhabitant as against 22.97 the average in the previous year. The number received for delivery was 18,276,000 as compared with 17,940,000 in 1927. The number of messages forwarded over the Government Telegraph Lines during the year 1928 was 565,150, as compared with 593,703, whilst the number received over the Government Telegraph Lines was 486,365, as compared with 482,052 in 1927. The number of subscribers to the Government Telephone Exchanges decreased from 1,844 to 1,836.

The estimated amount at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1928, was \$4,014,201.15, an increase of 7 per cent as compared with the actual amount on the 31st December, 1927. The average amount at the credit of each depositor was \$192.54. There was a profit on the year's working of \$53,501.74. The estimated present value of investments is \$4,197,031.23. These figures are subject to revision after audit.

In addition to the General Post Offices at Singapore, Penang, Malacca and the Post Office, Labuan, there were on the 31st December, 1928, 43 Sub-Offices in the Colony including the Railway Post Offices at Bukit Panjang and Bukit Timah (Singapore), Jarak, Tasek Glugor, Penanti, Pinang Tunggal, Simpang Ampat (Province Wellesley) and Tebong (Malacca). Of these 32 were Telegraph Offices.

The operations of the Money Order Branch amounted in 1928 to \$7,891,719.75, the principal business done being with India, the Federated Malay States, Great Britain, the Netherlands East Indies, Ceylon, China and the United States of America. The operations in 1927 amounted to \$8,318,760.86.

Eleven Submarine Cables radiate from Singapore:—

To Penang	...	5	thence to Madras	(3)
			„ „ Colombo	(2)
			„ „ Deli	(1)
Batavia	...	2	thence to Cocos	(1)
Banjoewangie	...	1	„ „ Darwin	(2)
Hongkong	...	1	„ „ Manila	(1)
			„ „ North China	(1)
			„ „ Macao	(1)
Cochin China	...	1	thence to Hongkong	(1)
Labuan	...	1	„ „ Hongkong	(1)

There are also Government Telegraph Lines from Penang to Province Wellesley, and thence to Perak,

Selangor, Pahang, Negri Sembilan, Kedah, Perlis, Kelantan, Trengganu, Siam, Johore, Malacca and Singapore. The land line from Singapore to Penang *via* Kuala Lumpur was opened for traffic in June, 1909. In Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings there are $233\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Telegraph wire, 20 miles of submarine cable, containing $148\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire and $2,801\frac{3}{4}$ miles of overhead telephone wire, and $21\frac{3}{4}$ miles of under-ground telephone cables containing $5,257\frac{1}{8}$ miles of wire. There are $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Telegraph Lines between Singapore and Johore containing $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire and there are $199\frac{1}{4}$ miles of Telegraph Line and $1,770\frac{3}{4}$ miles of Telephone line in Malacca. The Telephone Exchange in Singapore is worked by the Oriental Telephone Company and the exchanges in Penang, Province Wellesley and Malacca are worked by the Post Office.

RADIO TELEGRAPHY

There are two Government Wireless Stations in the Colony, situated at Paya Lebar (Singapore) and Penaga (Penang) respectively. The station at Paya Lebar communicates with fixed stations at Kuching (Sarawak) and Christmas Island, and with ship stations. The station at Penaga communicates with Rangoon and with ship stations. The machinery and apparatus have been maintained in good working order throughout the year. Point to point and shore to ship communication has been carried on without failure. Short-wave tests indicate that a satisfactory service could be maintained between Penang and Singapore by the use of that system. Short-wave communication was maintained with the aeroplane "Spirit of Australia" from two hours before its arrival at Singapore, and again during the whole flight from Singapore to Victoria Point, Burma. Communication was maintained with the Far Eastern Flight of the Royal Air Force from Victoria Point to Penang on the 8th December, and again during part of the flight from Penang to Singapore on the 11th December. Tests for reception of the short-wave programmes sent out from the experimental station of the British Broadcasting Corporation at Chelmsford, 5 S. W., on 24 metres, produced very varying results. The 7 P.M. to 12 midnight (G. M. T.) programme (2 A.M. to 7 A.M. Straits time) is generally receivable, but cannot be relied upon. The 12-30 P.M. to 1-30 P.M. (G. M. T.) programme (7-30 P.M. to 8-30 P.M. Straits time) has been found to be almost impossible of reception in Malaya. The 8 P.M. (G. M. T.) transmissions of British Official Wireless Press from Rugby have been regularly received. The noon (G. M. T.) transmissions are readable in this country only from November to March.

(c) COMMUNICATION BY SEA

Over 50 lines of sea-going steamers touch at Singapore. There is regular communication with Europe weekly, alternately by British India Steamers *viâ* Rangoon, Calcutta and Bombay homewards, *viâ* Bombay and Negapatam outwards, and by the Peninsular & Oriental vessels *viâ* Ceylon; and fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes *viâ* Ceylon. In addition there is a weekly service to Europe by the Steamship Companies Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd alternately, and a service at frequent intervals by Holt, Chargeurs-Reunis, Glen, Shire, Japanese and other lines. With China and Japan there is fortnightly communication by the Peninsular and Oriental and Messageries Maritimes lines, and by other lines frequently; with Cochin China fortnightly by the Messageries Maritimes and the Societe des Affreteurs Indo-Chinois, and monthly by Chargeurs-Reunis; with Manila *viâ* Hongkong frequently, and direct by Spanish Packets, Steamship Company Nederland, and British Packets occasionally; with Bangkok frequently by Straits Steamship and other steamers; with Batavia and other Netherlands India ports frequently by steamers of the Koninklyke Paketvaart Maatschappij, and of the Nederland and Rotterdam Lloyd Company; with Australian ports frequently by British India, Burns Philip, Ocean Steamship Company, Western Australian Steam Navigation Company, Koninklyke Paketvaart Maatschappij, and other lines direct, and occasionally *viâ* Colombo, with the sailings thence by Orient Packets; with Madras (direct) and other ports on the Coromandel Coast fortnightly by the British India Company's steamers, and with Rangoon and Calcutta weekly by the Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, British India, Aparcar, and other steamers. In addition to the above there is frequent communication with Penang, Malacca, and ports of the Malay States, Hongkong, etc. by local lines. Most of the larger steamers call at Penang. Letters from England reach Singapore in from 22 to 24 days.

VI.—Justice, Police and Prisons

CRIME STATISTICS

The total number of seizable offences recorded during 1928 was 6,879, as compared with 6,437 in 1927.

Of the admitted reports convictions were obtained in 2,633 cases and 103 cases awaited trial in 1929.

There was a decrease of 34 in the number of murders. There were 32 assaults classified as attempted murder and an increase of 38 in the number of reports classified as causing hurt with a dangerous weapon.

Robberies reported decreased by 122. Housebreakings accompanied by theft increased by 239, and thefts by 197. There were 15 more cases of extortion reported than in 1927. Seventy-four thousand, eight hundred and twenty-one non-seizable offences were reported to the Police in 1928.

CHINESE SECRET SOCIETIES

The repressive action taken in Singapore by the Police in 1927 crippled the Cantonese secret societies and sporadic attempts to re-organize them in 1928 were easily suppressed. There were isolated affrays between rival gangs in the course of which firearms were used, but there was nothing comparable with the active feuds of 1927. Reliable information has almost invariably been obtained which has enabled the Police to take precautionary measures. There was no active recrudescence of the longstanding feud between the Teochew Societies the "Sin Tong Hwa" and the "Hok Teo Keng". Better regulation of the river traffic has removed many causes for minor quarrels, which have been wont to develop into serious faction fights, and immediate repressive action was invariably taken at the earliest sign of pending trouble.

Hokkien Societies were engaged almost throughout the year in internal quarrels and as usual caused the Police considerable trouble. They were never seriously out of hand and never menaced the general peace of Singapore.

Members of the Communist Party chiefly Hailams were a source of considerable trouble to the Police in Singapore from the beginning of the year until September, by which time their activities had been practically stamped out. In February they were responsible for the attempt to shoot Dr. C. C. Wu. In April and May they sponsored the cause of the shoemaker strikers and caused the planting of numerous amateurish bombs in bootshops throughout Singapore, which did little material damage but had considerable moral effect on the Chinese populace. They were responsible for several murders. They made repeated attempts to demonstrate in furtherance of the anti-Japanese boycott and flooded the city with proclamations of a subversive nature. Most of the leaders had been arrested by the end of the year.

In Penang activities among the members of the Hokkien society "Sin Ngee Hin" were checked by prompt Police action.

PRISONS.

At the beginning of the year there were 1,097 prisoners in the three Criminal Prisons of the Colony (Singapore Penang and Malacca). Five thousand six hundred and

twenty-eight were admitted during the year as compared with 3,966 during 1927 and 5,470 were discharged. One thousand two hundred and fifty-five (1,255) remained at the end of the year. There were 174 vagrants in the Houses of Detention at the beginning of the year; during the year 1,645 were admitted and 1,608 were discharged. Of the 1,608 vagrants discharged 174 found employment and 1,311 were repatriated.

“Middle-grade” prisoners are employed on industrial labour such as printing, book-binding, tailoring, carpentry, washing, weaving, shoe-making and mat and basket-making.

The “Upper-grade” men are mostly employed as cooks, orderlies, clerks, etc., the “Lower-grade” men at husk-beating, and the “Short-sentence” and “Revenue-grade” men at husk-beating and fatigue duties.

The sanitary condition of the prisons and the health of the prisoners have been satisfactory throughout the year.

VII.—Public Works

In Singapore the new General Post Office, now called Fullerton Building, was completed as also the Mental Hospital, the Raffles Girls’ School and 8 Quarters for Senior Government Officers. Work on the new Chinese Protectorate was begun.

In Penang the Carnarvon Street Police Station and Barracks were practically completed and good progress was made with the additions to the Girls’ School, Northam Road, and the erection of an English Elementary School in Perak Road.

Progress was made with the new Water Scheme for the Dindings.

Dredging operations were continued at Weld Quay, Penang, by the “Tembakul” throughout the year.

In Province Wellesley the new Bridge over the Krian River, consisting of 2 spans of 166 feet and 2 spans of 100 feet, was approaching completion towards the close of the year. The reconstruction of roads programme was continued.

In Malacca the extensive repairs to the Ferro-concrete Lighthouse at One Fathom Bank were continued. The Water Scheme, which has been carried out at an expenditure of over \$2,000,000, was completed and water was available from the new source of supply before the close of the year.

In Labuan the new Dam for the Reservoir was finished.

VIII.—Public Health

A.—VITAL STATISTICS

The population of 1928 is estimated on that of the Census of 1921. The distribution is as follows:—

	<i>Census Figures</i> 1921	<i>Estimated</i> 1927	<i>Estimated</i> 1928
Singapore ...	423,768	538,077	559,270
Penang ...	304,572	333,063	342,023
Malacca ...	153,599	188,828	194,342
Total ...	881,939	1,059,968	1,095,635

The number of births registered during the year was 39,479 as against 37,233, and the deaths 31,516 as against 35,561 in the previous year.

This shows a return to normal figures after the high death rates of 1926 and 1927.

The percentage of males born was 51.90. The highest birth-rate by nationalities was 41.43 per thousand amongst Malays.

The infantile mortality (deaths of children under one year) was 185.06 per thousand births as against 214.14 in 1927 and 205.47 in 1926.

The number of deaths registered as from infantile convulsions (deaths of children under one year of age) was 4,575 as against 5,831 and 4,873 in the two previous years. Dietetic errors, tetanus and malaria are common causes of convulsions.

The crude death rate is 28.76 per thousand, as against 33.55 and 31.81 in the two previous years, and is the lowest since 1926. The lowest death-rate on record, 27.26 per thousand of population, was in the year 1925. The average for the last ten years is 30.51.

Malaria was responsible for 5,798 deaths as against 6,296 in 1927, and 6,452 in 1926, while fever unclassified accounted for 1,494 deaths as against 1,983 and 2,662 in the two previous years.

Two thousand eight hundred and two deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis as compared with 2,952 in the year 1927.

Pneumonia accounted for 2,679 deaths as compared with 2,690 in the previous year. Only 204 deaths were registered as due to Influenza.

Beri-beri accounted for 1,146 deaths as against 1,531, 1,098 and 957 in the three previous years.

Dysentery caused 902 deaths, classified as follows:—

Amœbic	...	...	...	256
Bacillary	...	...	...	253
Unclassified	...	...	...	393
Total				902

The number of deaths from dysentery in 1927 was 1,111.

Infectious Disease.—There were two deaths from small-pox, 11 deaths from cholera, 4 deaths from plague and 14 deaths from cerebro-spinal fever, excluding deaths in Maritime Quarantine Stations.

B.—HEALTH BRANCH

One thousand three hundred and forty two visits were paid to ships in Singapore and 1,821 visits to ships in Penang by Port Health Officers, who examined 758,516 persons.

Fifty-seven thousand two hundred and sixty-six persons were retained under observation in our two Maritime Quarantine Stations, mostly for short periods.

The numbers of persons from ships treated for infectious diseases in the Singapore Quarantine Station were 14 for cholera and 6 for small-pox: in Penang nil for cholera and 11 for small-pox.

RURAL CONSERVANCY

The Health Officers in each settlement continued to supervise and develop the sanitation and conservancy in rural areas.

The Rural Sanitation Campaign has resulted in the erection of many sanitary latrines of types suitable to the various localities.

ANTI-MALARIAL WORK

The sum of \$226,465.55 was spent on anti-mosquito work and anti-malarial measures in a general reduction of all harmful mosquitoes.

The chief item of expenditure has been permanent drainage, but large areas are also controlled by temporary oiling measures.

C.—KING EDWARD VII COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

The total number of licentiates of the College at the end of the year was 225 and the number of students 105. The number of new students admitted was 21. Owing to the addition of a further year to the medical course in 1923, only 4 students completed their course and obtained the diploma of the College in 1928.

D.—HOSPITALS

Sixty-six thousand one hundred and sixty-nine in-patients were treated in the Hospitals of the Colony, as against 69,123 in 1927. The malaria admissions were 13,173 as against 14,178.

Admissions for Venereal disease were 4,754 with 157 deaths.

E.—DISPENSARIES

GENERAL DISEASES

Out-patients numbered 190,749 and attendances 333,106 as against 166,428 out-patients and 313,264 attendances in 1927.

The attendances at the Women & Children's Dispensary, Kandang Kerbau, Singapore, were 35,222 as compared with 33,888 in 1927.

In the Women and Children's out-door dispensary, Penang, the attendances were 17,342 as against 11,749 in 1927.

MOTOR TRAVELLING DISPENSARIES

The number of attendances at the Motor Travelling Dispensary in Singapore was 18,415. In Penang Island the attendances were 31,688 and in Province Wellesley the attendances were 17,712. In Malacca there were 15,037 attendances.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Out-patients treated for venereal diseases were 28,568 as compared with 24,883 in 1927. The attendances were 191,534 as against 146,350.

YAWS

The number of out-patients treated for Yaws was 7,870 as compared with 7,979 in 1927. This disease is steadily decreasing owing to widespread and effective treatment.

F.—LEPERS

The total number of lepers treated in the Leper Settlements was 1,091 with a total of 128 deaths.

With the continuance of modern treatment, there is a steady fall in the death-rate.

G.—MENTAL HOSPITAL

One thousand and fifteen males and thirty two females were treated during the year 1928. The numbers remaining at the end of the year were 730 males and 270 females.

All the mental cases at Sepoy Lines and Pasir Panjang Lunatic Asylums were moved to the new Mental Hospital at Trafalgar Estate, Yeo Chu Kang, Singapore, during the latter half of 1928, and so were the Straits Settlements patients at Tanjong Rambutan.

IX.—Education

There were 20 Government English Schools in the Colony with an average enrolment of 8,717 pupils. The expenditure on these schools was \$1,032,806. The equivalent figures for 1927 were 20 schools, 8,145 pupils and \$987,594 expenditure.

There were 29 Aided English Schools with an average enrolment of 15,255 pupils. The grants paid by Government in aid of these schools amounted to \$831,716.

The expenditure on the 215 Government Vernacular Schools was \$454,611 and their average enrolment was 19,421.

Excluding Chinese Vernacular Schools there were 19 Aided Vernacular Schools, with an average enrolment of 2,751, the grants to which for 1928 amounted to \$7,794.

The pupils in the secondary classes in the English Schools numbered 1,580 as against 1,397 in 1926 and 1,499 in 1927.

Thirty students passed the final third year examination of the Normal Classes for teachers, as compared with 39 in 1927.

There were two student teachers from English Schools in Malaya studying at Hongkong University at Government expense and 33 at Raffles College. These students on the completion of their studies are employed as teachers in the Government and Aided Schools.

Nine candidates entered for the two Queen's Scholarships, revived in 1924 for boys or girls, chosen at a special competitive examination conducted by the Cambridge Delegates and approved by a selection Board, to enable them to complete their studies at a University in the United Kingdom. Competitors may be of any race or creed, but must be British subjects. Two candidates from Penang won the scholarships and in the opinion of the examining body all candidates reached a higher standard than usual. One of the successful candidates proposes to study Law and the other Medicine.

The European Staff was still short of officers chiefly owing to the creation of supernumerary appointments for officers seconded to Kedah and Johore.

During the year one European Master, appointed to the Malayan Educational Service, was allocated to the Colony. Four new European Mistresses were allocated to the Straits Settlements.

The Department of Physical Instruction was strengthened by the addition of another European Officer and the Colony and the Federated Malay States now share the services of a Chief Superintendent of Physical Education and an Assistant Superintendent of Physical Education.

A new Elementary English School for 480 pupils was opened at McNair Road, Singapore, in 1928.

A similar school at Serangoon, Singapore, was nearing completion at the end of the year.

Raffles Girls' School moved into its new premises in July, leaving its old building to meet the growing needs of Raffles Institution.

The new Penang Free School was opened in January.

Plans and a site were prepared for the new High School, Malacca.

The medical inspection of schools and pupils and instruction in hygiene and perhaps more than all physical education are creating an interest in public health.

The Singapore Evening Classes in Commercial and Technical subjects continued to satisfy a local want. Instruction was given in English, Book-keeping, Shorthand and Typing, in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Mechanics,

Mechanical and Survey Drawing, Building Construction, Electricity and Magnetism, and Sanitary Inspection.

Nautical Classes under a European Instructor gave instruction in Malay for helmsmen, gunners and masters of local craft.

In Penang there were Evening classes in commercial and technical subjects.

There were evening classes in Malacca in Type-writing and Shorthand.

The Sultan Idris Training College for Malay Vernacular teachers at Tanjong Malim in the Federated Malay States accommodates one hundred students from the Colony. The Colony defrayed one-third of the expenditure, paying the sum of \$48,486.

The Colony's total expenditure in connection with Chinese Schools was \$19,607.

At the close of the year registered Chinese Schools numbered 335 with 22,591 pupils.

One Chinese school in Singapore received a grant-in-aid during 1928 amounting to \$964; in Penang eight Chinese schools received grants amounting to \$18,508 and one school in Malacca received a grant-in-aid amounting to \$135.

Raffles College:—The accounts showed at the end of 1928, \$1,881,770 to the credit of the General Fund and the Funds of Buildings and Scholarships. The Colony is contributing \$1,000,000 towards the cost of building, the Federated Malay States Government defraying \$200,000 being the cost of a second Hostel. Annuities in perpetuity amounting to \$63,000 have been promised by the Governments of the Straits Settlements, Johore and Kelantan; annuities for a term of years have been promised by the Governments of the Federated Malay States and Kedah and various private individuals and estates.

The Eu Tong Sen Hall of Residence and the houses for the President and Professors were ready and the College opened informally in June with 33 Government students, one scholar and seven private students.

The Honourable Mr. R. O. WINSTEDT, C.M.G., D.LITT. (Oxon.), M.A., Director of Education, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States, continued to act as President. A new Ordinance was passed for the administration of the College.

X.—Lands and Survey

A.—LANDS

(i).—LAND TENURE

Singapore.—Land in the hands of private owners in Singapore is held direct from the Crown either by lease or grant. The earliest of the existing titles are the 99-year leases issued for land in the town soon after the founding of Singapore.

The first of the present 99-year leases for land in the town was issued in 1838.

From 1845 onwards a large number of freehold grants were issued for land outside the limits of the town. The margin allowed for the expansion of the town was, however, insufficient, with the result that land in the most densely crowded part of the present town is held under titles which were originally issued for land required for agricultural purposes. In the case of town lands the issue of 99-year leases continued.

After the transfer to the Colonial Office in 1867 the titles issued for land both in town and country were 99-year leases and 999-year leases. Ordinance No. II of 1886 now Ordinance No. 34 (Crown Lands) provided for a Statutory form of Crown Title—the present Statutory Land Grant, which is a grant in perpetuity subject to a quit-rent the form of which was simplified by the omission of various covenants and conditions previously inserted in leases, most of which are implied by virtue of the Statute.

The Statutory Grant has been the usual form of title issued but the policy hitherto has been to restrict the issue of Statutory Grants substituting as far as possible leases for terms not exceeding 99 years. Monthly and annual permits are also issued for the temporary occupation of Crown Land. Leases of foreshore can be issued under Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores) for terms which must not exceed 100 years except in special cases with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Penang—Land in Penang and Province Wellesley is held from the Crown, by indenture, grant or lease. The conditions of tenure vary according to the policy of the Government at the time the documents were issued. In Penang eleven different kinds of title are in the hands of the public as compared with eighteen in Singapore. Unoccupied Crown land is obtainable on Leases. Alienation of foreshore is subject to Ordinance No. 69 (Foreshores).

The rates of rent reserved in old leases vary in different localities.

Malacca.—The tenure of a considerable portion of the land in Malacca Town has remained unchanged since the days of Dutch rule. Possession is evidenced in many cases by documents of title in Dutch.

The remainder of the land in the Town is chiefly held under leases of 99 years but there are a few leases of 999 years and a few Statutory Grants.

Occupied land in the country is held under Statutory Grants or 99 year leases from the Crown in the case of Estates but small holdings owned by Malays are held under Customary tenure as defined by the Malacca Lands Ordinance. There is special legislation, Ordinance No. 69, for the alienation of foreshore.

Land is obtainable without premium if held under customary tenure. Land to be held under Grant or Lease is generally sold by auction. The principal land Revenue consists of rents on Grants or Leases and of Mukim Assessment on land held under Customary tenure.

Labuan.—In Labuan Crown Land may be disposed of by public auction only.

The titles given are leases of 999 years or less.

Since 1919 leases for 30 years only have been granted.

(ii).—LAND REVENUE

The Revenue in 1927 and 1928 was distributed as follows:—

		Land Revenue	Reimburse- ments	Land Sales	Total
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Singapore ...	(1927	368,783	43,689	359,889	772,361
	1928	499,806	35,028	407,394	942,228
Penang ...	(1927	206,145	31,599	107,249	344,993
	1928	210,053	37,159	28,442	275,654
Malacca ...	(1927	679,505	19,531	386,793	1,085,829
	1928	677,481	23,460	326,066	1,027,007
Labuan ...	(1927	5,543	2,786	1,361	9,690
	1928	6,475	1,742	1,200	9,417
Total ...	(1927	1,259,976	97,605	855,292	2 212,873
	1928	1,393,815	97,389	763,102	2,254,306

(iii).—ALIENATION OF LAND

The area of Crown Land alienated, and the number of Statutory Grants and Leases issued during the last five years, together with the amount of premia paid in respect of the same, are shown in the following table:—

—	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
<i>Singapore</i>	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,355 0 27	1,059 1 29	441 1 00	33 3 18	7 1 32
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	46,139	12,183	13,738	100,915	282,451
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	57	41	60	101	58
Premia paid ...	\$70,399.00	\$87,631.00	\$71,241	\$48,738	\$196,272.00
<i>Penang</i>	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	1,284 1 22	1,120 3 6 45	2,134 1 11	1,825 1 39 93	5,611 3 37
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.	sq. ft.
.. Town Lots ...	155	19,901	Nil.	5,539	4,418
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	146 S. Grants (& 5-99 years' Leases.)	171 S. Grants (7-99 years' Leases.) 4-30 do.	391 Statutory Grants, 10 Penang Hill Leases: 5-99 years' Leases 1-10 years' Lease	300 Statutory Grants, 99-99 years' Leases 1 Foreshore Lease for 80 years covering an area of 3,600 sq. ft.	(257 Statutory Grants, 110-99 years' Leases 4 Penang Hill Leases 1-30 years' Leases 2 Foreshore Leases for 99 years each; covering area of 677.5 sq. ft.)
Premia paid ...	\$18,464.00	\$410,795.00	\$14,165.72	\$19,424.00	\$100,173.00
<i>Malacca</i>	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	2,712 2 18 64	3,686 3 11 02	737 1 03 75	8,018 0 26	6,731 3 21
	sq. ft.	sq. ft.		sq. ft.	
.. Town Lots ..	59,350½	Nil.	6 3 35	23,720	2 0 27
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	127 & 1 Lease	80 & 1 Lease	48 & 34 Leases	7 Statutory Grants, 55-99 years' Leases 2-30 years' Leases and 2 Mining Leases	(148 Statutory Grants, 116-99 years' Leases 1-21 years' Lease 1-99 years' Lease
Premia paid ...	\$202,830.00	\$254,040.10	\$57,927	\$109,297.00	\$468,133.00
<i>Labuan</i>	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.	A. R. P.
Area granted ...	135 0 20	146 3 00	457 3 24	557 2 06	614 3 25
.. Town Lots ...	0 0 24½	Nil.	0 2 01	131	7 0 19
Number of Statutory Grants issued ...	50	52	124		72
	(23 new Grants, 25 Sub-division Grants and 2 in exchange for old grants)	(22 new Grants, 24 Sub-division Grants and 6 in exchange for old grants)	(37 new Grants, 34 Sub-division Grants and 3 issued in exchange for old grants)	(73 new Grants, 4 Sub-division Grants and 9 issued in exchange for old grants)	(43 new Grants, 21 Sub-division Grants and 8 issued in exchange for old grants)
Premia paid ...	\$209.20	\$217.20	\$936.75	\$1,360.50	\$1,200.50

B.—SURVEY

(i).—GENERAL

Expenditure on Surveys amounted to \$509,085 in 1928 against \$508,648 in 1927. The Revenue amounted to \$110,220 against \$94,075 in 1927.

The demand for title and other Surveys continues to increase particularly in Singapore. During the year the Co-ordination with the Survey Staff of the Singapore Improvement Trust became fully effective and has resulted in mutual benefit both to the Trust and to the Survey Department. The more efficiently the Trust functions and the more energetically it pushes on its schemes of improvement, the more requisitions for survey have to be dealt with.

It may generally be said that there is no piece of survey work in Singapore that does not involve an elaborate investigation into the history of the parcel of land and reference to the many previous attempts to make reliable surveys. The position now is that the work is organised on sound lines, that the staff is working efficiently, that the Co-operation with the Improvement Trust is effective and that the work now being done is of permanent value. It will be some years before arrears are overtaken, but it will never in future be necessary to begin all over again as has been done so often in the past. In Penang and Malacca the position with regard to progress of surveys is quite satisfactory.

(ii).—METEOROLOGY

The programme of establishing meteorological stations has proceeded satisfactorily. The sites for the Stations in Singapore and Malacca were selected and the Meteorological station on Mount Faber is now fully established.

The whole programme is one of 17 stations distributed over Malaya of which 16 will be working by the middle of 1929.

(iii).—GENERAL

The Surveyor-General returned from leave in September. During his absence he attended as the representative of Malaya the Conference of Empire Surveyors, convened by His Majesty's Government, and also the Geographical Congress.

XI.—Labour

(i).—GENERAL

The majority of labourers in the Colony are Chinese and South Indians. The latter are chiefly engaged in agricultural work and on public services, the former in agriculture and every other form of manual labour. Skilled work is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese.

In addition there are about 4,900 Javanese labourers, immigrants from the Netherlands East Indies.

Conditions of Labour in the Colony are governed by the provisions of Ordinance No. 197 (Labour), and by the Netherlands Indians Labourers' Protection Ordinance, 1908. These Ordinances are administered by a Labour Department under the direction of the Controller of Labour, Malaya.

During the year under review, relations between employers and labourers continued to be satisfactory.

Throughout the year, standard rates of wages in Province Wellesley were 50 cents a day for adult male labourers and 40 cents for adult females, these rates having remained unchanged since the 1st July, 1927. In other parts of the Colony, South Indian labourers earn from 40 cents to 65 cents (men) and from 35 cents to 50 cents (women). The rates in the larger towns are higher than these.

Javanese and Malays earn from 50 to 60 cents a day and Chinese who are usually employed on contract (*i.e.*, piece work) earn considerably more.

The health on estates in Penang, Province Wellesley and the Dindings was satisfactory, the death-rate among Indian labourers in Province Wellesley being 11·71 per mille and in the Dindings 8·28 per mille. The death-rate on the few estates in Penang was 6·83 per mille.

The death-rate on estates in Malacca on an average population of 11,306 was 17·86 per mille.

The death-rate among Indians in Singapore was 25·41 per mille, as compared with a death-rate of 27·84 per mille for the general population of Singapore.

The death-rate among labourers of other races, of whom far fewer are employed on estates, was inconsiderable. In the Settlement of Penang on an average population of 3,946 it was 2·8 per mille. In Malacca on an average population of 4,162, it was ·96 per mille and in Singapore, on an average population of 18,893, it was 2·8 per mille.

(ii).—IMMIGRATION

Chinese Immigration.—The total number of immigrants arriving in the Colony in 1928 was 295,700, being 17.6 per cent less than the figure for 1927 and exceeding that for 1911, the highest year before the war, by 25,846 or 9.6 per cent.

Adult males formed 65.2 per cent, and adult females 18.8 per cent of the immigrants.

During the year the number of emigrants returning to China was 149,354, and the excess of immigrants over emigrants was 146,346 or 49.5 per cent of their total number.

The decrease was due to the slump in Rubber and Tin, less employment and an improvement in the general conditions in South China.

Women and children arriving numbered 102,891.

Southern Indians.—The immigration of labourers from Southern India is regulated by the Indian Immigration Committee (of which the Controller of Labour, Malaya, is ex officio Chairman) appointed by the Governor.

The Railway fares in India, steamer passages, and transport expenses of such labourers to their places of employment are paid from the Indian Immigration Fund.

The total number of immigrants (deck passengers) arriving at Penang from Southern India during the year was 63,072 as compared with 156,132 in 1927.

These figures include both "assisted" and "other" Immigrants.

The assisted immigrants are free labourers imported at the expense of the Indian Immigration Fund for work on estates, mines and elsewhere. The other immigrants are deck passengers paying their own fares, 71 per cent of whom were of the labouring classes.

The total number of immigrants arriving from Southern India was a great deal smaller than the corresponding number for 1927. The very high immigration in 1926 and 1927 had practically satisfied the existing demand and the effect of the announcement in April that restrictions on the export of rubber would be removed on the 1st of November, 1928, was to restrict for the time being the further demand for labour.

The number of Indians leaving the Colony for Southern India was 91,252 as against 84,767 in 1927. These figures include all deck passengers of whom it is estimated that 78 per cent were labourers.

The figures for arrivals for the last 4 years are as follows:—

	1925	1926	1927	1928
Assisted immigrants ...	70,198	149,414	123,826	27,240
Other immigrants ...	20,510	25,381	32,306	35,832
	90,708	174,795	156,132	63,072

The assisted immigrants consisted of 22,649 adults and 4,591 minors. Of the adults 14,635 were men and 8,014 were women. About 3,046 of the assisted immigrants remained in the Colony: the others proceeded to other parts of Malaya.

THE INDIAN IMMIGRATION FUND

The income of the Fund is derived from a quarterly assessment levied on all employers of South Indian labour throughout Malaya based upon the number of days' work done by such labourers during the quarter.

The rate of assessment was fixed at \$3 for males and \$2 for females for the first two quarters of 1928, at 50 cents for males and nil for females for the third and fourth quarters of 1928, in respect of every 72 days work done.

REPATRIATION

During 1928, 13,819 adult and 4,328 minor decrepit or destitute Indians were assisted with passages back to India.

XII.—Miscellaneous

A.—LEGISLATION

Twenty-six Ordinances were passed during the year 1928. Of these two were Supply Ordinances and seventeen were purely Amending Ordinances.

The Ordinances which are not Supply or Amending Ordinances are:—

- (i) The Cinematograph Films Ordinance (No. 5) which consolidates and amends the law relating to the exhibition of cinematograph films.
- (ii) The Raffles College Ordinance (No. 8) which makes provision for the administration of Raffles College as an established institution.
- (iii) The Immigration Restriction Ordinance (No. 11) which gives power to restrict, in certain circumstances, the immigration of labourers into the Colony.

- (iv) The Foreign Corporation (Execution of Instruments under Seal) Ordinance (No. 15) which makes provision with regard to the execution of instruments under seal by the agents of certain foreign corporations.
- (v) The Rubber Restriction Repeal Ordinance (No. 20) which removes the restriction upon the export of rubber by repealing the legislation under which such restriction has been enforced.
- (vi) The Pensions Ordinance (No. 22) which consolidates and amends the law regulating the granting of pensions, gratuities and other allowances in respect of public service in the Colony
- (vii) The Apportionment Ordinance (No. 25) which legalises the practice of treating periodical payments, such as rent, as accruing from day to day and of apportioning them in respect of time accordingly.

The principal Amending Ordinances are:—

- (i) The Banishment (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 1) which empowers the Governor in Council to make an order for the banishment or expulsion of an alien upon the same grounds as the Secretary of State may make a deportation order under the Aliens Order 1920.
- (ii) The Arms and Explosives (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 3) which prohibits the importation, manufacture or possession of fireworks, which contain any explosive ingredient other than a limited quantity of black gunpowder.
- (iii) The Youthful Offender's Reception (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 4) which extends the scope of the principal Ordinance so as to enable any person who has been found to be a youthful offender or destitute child by a Court of competent jurisdiction in any Malay State under British protection to be brought to the Colony and detained in a Reformatory School.
- (iv) The General Loan and Inscribed Stock (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 6) which provides for the suspension of further payments of contributions to the sinking funds of certain loans, when the sinking funds are potentially "full".
- (v) The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 7) which permits errors of fact or substance in any register book of births or deaths to be corrected only upon the

information of persons who have knowledge of the facts.

- (vi) The Naturalization (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 9) which declares that British nationality acquired under the principal Ordinance is lost by any person who subsequently becomes naturalized voluntarily in a foreign State.
- (vii) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 10) which amends the definition of "home trade ship" so as to bring the ports of Saigon, Bangkok and Rangoon within "home trade" limits.
- (viii) The Chandu Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 13) which enables a system of registration of consumers of prepared opium to be introduced, in order that their numbers may be ascertained, with a view to the furnishing of the information required by Article X of the Agreement signed on the 11th February, 1925, at the First Opium Conference at Geneva.
- (ix) The Deleterious Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 14) which grants to duly qualified practitioners, and to certain other qualified persons, a general authorisation to be in possession of and to use deleterious drugs in the course of their professions.
- (x) The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 16) which brings within the scope of the principal Ordinance the acquisition of land required by a Rural Board or the Singapore Improvement Trust.
- (xi) The Tobacco Duties (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 17) which allows drawbacks of import duty paid on tobacco when such tobacco after importation has been converted into cigarettes and the cigarettes so made have been exported.
- (xii) The Rubber Lands Assessment (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 19) which re-introduces the sliding scale regulating the rate of assessment of rubber lands from the date on which restriction on the export of rubber is removed.
- (xiii) The Traction Engines and Motor Cars (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 21) which transfers the duty of registering traction engines and motor cars from the Chief Police Officer to other persons to be appointed by the Governor.

- (xiv) The Seditious Publications (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 26) which authorises police officers, not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent to search premises without warrant, in cases where delay in obtaining a warrant would be likely to frustrate the object of the search.

B.—REGISTRATION OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

During the year 52 new companies were registered, with a capital of \$19,370,683, of which 41 were private companies with a capital of \$10,423,540.

At the end of the year 499 companies remained on the register of which 36 were in liquidation. The total subscribed capital of the 448 companies carrying on business was \$197,250,004.

Five hundred and fifty-three companies not incorporated in the Colony have filed documents under the Companies Ordinance. Of these, 441 are British, 23 are Japanese, 29 are Dutch, 2 are German and 25 are incorporated in the United States of America, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands. Apart from these, 14 British, 1 Japanese and 1 American companies have complied with the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, and private Ordinances have been enacted in respect of 6 foreign companies. Seventy-two companies do fire insurance business.

C.—BANKRUPTCIES

There were 58 trade bankruptcies of which 38 were Chinese. In 22 cases the bankrupts had absconded.

In five cases liabilities exceeded \$100,000, in 6 cases \$50,000 and in 15 cases \$10,000.

One deed of Arrangement was registered.

D.—CO-OPERATION

The past year has shown a steady increase in the membership and paid-up capital of existing Co-operative Societies and has witnessed the formation of a number of new societies.

In urban areas the 13 Thrift and Loan Societies, of which three were only recently registered, have built up a strong financial position and are of great assistance to salary earners. Societies of Government servants will, it is hoped, in the course of time, replace the Government as a source of assistance in times of financial embarrassment.

Societies have been formed amongst the mercantile employees both in Singapore and Penang.

In rural areas progress is such slower and the fall in the price of rubber has made repayment of loans at due date more difficult. There are eleven registered rural credit societies and two awaiting registration.

It is worthy of record that largely as a result of the encouragement given by the Malay Officer of the Department, out of a total of 71 cash prizes won by exhibitors from Balik Pulau, Penang, at the recent Malayan Agri-Horticultural Association Exhibition at Ipoh, 65 were won by members of Co-operative Societies. In addition, one gold and one silver medal were secured.

JOHN SCOTT,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements

SINGAPORE, 17th June, 1929.

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